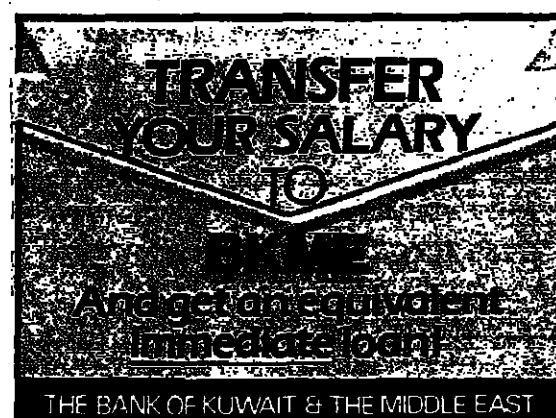


# ARAB TIMES



**20 PAGES 150 FILS**



"Streets were cut off and emptied during [Muawad] moves, but who could have guessed that a 250 kg (550-pound) bomb would be placed inside [the hotel]?"

**Congressman Rodolfo Albano**, former minority leader in the House of Representatives, said Cojuangco's return would boost the opposition forces, still grasping for a leader since Mar-

## Only the brave seek Lebanon's presidency as assassins manage to reach their targets

Since the country plunged into civil war 14 years ago two such men have been blown to pieces — the latest last Wednesday — by professional killers. Maronite Christian Rene Muawad, 64, was assassinated in west Beirut by a remote-controlled bomb just 17 days after taking office. Seven years earlier, a president-elect was murdered before he could take up office.

Deputy Pierre Helou, widely considered to be frontrunner for president, withdrew from the race. He said he did so because of pressure from his family.

Motorists and pedestrians were not allowed to move through the area.

Journalists were allowed inside the hotel only minutes before the start of the electoral session. Securitymen carried out rigorous body searches. Cameras, tape recorders and pens were inspected for

"Streets were cut off and emptied during his Muawad moves, but who could have guessed that a 250 kg (550-pound) bomb would be placed inside a mosque to take his life?"

**Congressman Rodolfo Albano**, former minority leader in the House of Representatives, said Cojuangco's return would boost the opposition forces, still grasping for a leader since Mar-



# Hirawi forms reconciliation cabinet

(Continued from Page 1)

designate under Muawad. He is prime minister and foreign minister in the new government.

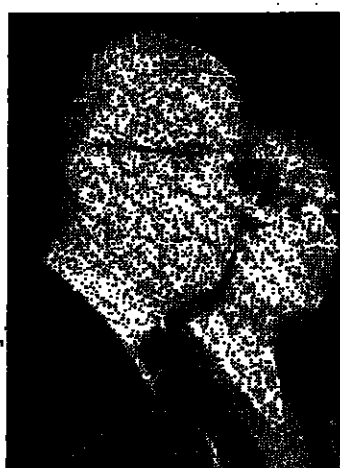
He retained Druze chief Walid Jumblatt as public works minister, and Shiite Muslim militia leader Nabih Berri as minister of electrical and hydraulic resources. Berri also was given the housing and co-operatives portfolio.

Jumblatt and Berri are Syria's main allies in Lebanon. They fled the largest Muslim militias in the civil war against the Christians. Both served in Hoss' outgoing cabinet.

Hoss introduced George Saadeh, leader of the right-wing Phalange Party, Lebanon's largest Christian political force, into the new government as minister of posts and telecommunications.

But Saadeh, a Maronite based in the Christian enclave controlled by Aoun's army, appeared reluctant to take up the post.

"I was surprised by my appointment. I don't oppose the new government, but the question of my participation must first be approved by the Phalange politburo," he said in a statement broadcast by the party's Voice of



Hirawi (right), standing near Parliament Speaker Hussein Hussein, after he was elected to succeed Muawad. (Reuters wirephoto)

Lebanon radio station. The Greek Orthodox, Greek Catholics and Armenians also were represented in Hoss' government.

Aoun said he considered the election of Hirawi "as unconstitutional as that of Muawad. Both have been elected under Syrian occupation."

"They should have waited to find out who killed Muawad before appointing a new



A woman wails in front of the coffin of Muawad during the massive funeral in Zghorta. (Reuters wirephoto)

president," Aoun said in a statement released by his press office in Beirut's eastern suburb of Baabda.

Aoun is holding out with his 20,000 troops in the Christian enclave, comprising East Beirut and the hinterland to the north. He said his cabinet remains the only legitimate government in Lebanon.

Aoun, 54, also a Maronite, was named to head an interim cabinet by former President Amin Gemayel on Sept 22, 1988, just before Gemayel's six-year term expired with Parliament unable to elect a successor.

It was not clear how Hirawi and Hoss would go about removing Aoun to head off final partition of the country. He commands the loyalty of a cohesive army that stands as the nation's mightiest fighting machine. But his troops are outnumbered and outgunned by the Syrians, who have 40,000 soldiers controlling 70 per cent of Lebanese territory under a 1976 Arab League peacekeeping mandate.



The wife and mother of one of the bodyguards who were killed along with Muawad cry on the coffin of their dead man. (Reuters wirephoto)

Arab and Western governments welcomed the swift election of Hirawi and renewed calls for peace following the assassination of his predecessor.

Syrian President Hafez Al Assad sent a telegram to Hirawi saying: "I see in your election an honour to the soul of the late President Muawad, who was determined to end Lebanon's torment."

US President George Bush urged all Lebanese to unite behind Hirawi.

Saudi Arabia issued a statement expressing "full backing for the step taken by the deputies to maintain Lebanese legitimacy and continue reconciliation moves."

Jordan wished success for Hirawi's government and called for national dialogue in Lebanon.

## Secrecy shrouds shuttle mission

SPACE CENTRE, Houston, Nov 25, (AP): The five Discovery astronauts worked under a shroud of secrecy today while testing the space shuttle's control systems in preparation for a Sunday landing in the Mojave desert.

A news blackout ordered by the military has prevented the US space agency from talking about its classified mission, but sources said the crew's main goal was to deploy a spy satellite.

Discovery is scheduled to land Sunday at 7:02 pm (0302 GMT Monday) at Edwards Air Force Base, California. It will be the third after-dark landing in 37 shuttle flights.

While the Johnson Space Centre has been mum about all aspects of the mission since Thursday, it is assumed that the commander and pilot Friday tested the shuttle's flight control systems and steered thrusters to make sure they are ready for the trip back home — a fiery, hour-long drive through the Earth's atmosphere.

Besides deploying a spy satellite, the Discovery astronauts reportedly have been conducting experiments for the strategic defence initiative missile defence system. Neither the National Aeronautics and Space Administration nor the Defense Department would discuss the release of the satellite or other mission objectives.

The last official status report — issued Thursday night by mission control in Houston — stated that the "crew is doing well and the orbiter continues to perform satisfactorily."

Sources close to the project said the astronauts had accomplished their main goal of deploying a 2.5-ton, \$300 million satellite capable of monitoring military and diplomatic communications in the Soviet Union, the Middle East, Africa and Europe.

The Discovery mission is the fifth shuttle flight dedicated solely to military research.

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**Long sentence:** A man already sentenced to 3,576 years in prison for defrauding the government received an additional 370-year sentence from an anti-graft court.

Despite the long sentences, Rolando Mangubat will probably spend no more than 30 years behind bars, because that is the maximum time in prison the law allows.

The latest sentence against Mangubat, a former regional accountant of the Ministry of Public Works and Highway, was announced Friday after the court found him guilty of 55 graft cases and four cases of falsifying public documents.

Mangubat was also ordered to pay the government \$86,000, which he allegedly pocketed by faking delivery receipts of construction materials from August 1977 to July 1978. He was also barred from holding any other public office. (AP)

**Monkeys feast on 12-course meal:** Hundreds of monkeys descended from their Buddhist temple home yesterday for a 12-course meal complete with menus and linen napkins, but they forgot their manners and hurled soda cans at curious humans.

The furry guests leaped aboard the neat rows of tables to devour vast spreads of sweet and sour noodles, salad, tomato cocktail, fried rice, Chinese-style noodles, potato soup, banana cake and coconut candy.

A local hotel owner, Yongyut Kijwanananasuan, gave the monkeys the meal to thank them for the success of his Lobur inn. The monkeys are symbols

of good fortune and a favourite tourist attraction in this small provincial capital 70 miles (110 kms) north of Bangkok. (AP)

**Aids kills 26 in Tunisia:** Twenty-six persons have died in Tunisia of Aids (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) out of a total of 154 reported cases since 1985, a report by the Tunisian Health Ministry said yesterday.

The figures do not include the number of persons carrying the disease virus, known as HIV, said the report carried by Egypt's Middle East News Agency in a dispatch from the Tunisian capital of Tunis.

The ministry said it currently is embarking on a five-month anti-Aids campaign in the country. (UPI)

**Balloon crossing postponed:** Freak winds forced the postponement late Friday night of an attempt by Virgin Atlantic Airways chairman Richard Branson and Swedish partner Per Lindstrand to cross the Pacific by hot-air balloon.

The two are now scheduled to launch their craft at about midnight Saturday night or early Sunday.

"Early Sunday will have ideal conditions for the launch," said Lindstrand at a news conference on Saturday. (Reuters)

**Vulnerable spot in cockroaches' shell:** A chemist has found a vulnerable spot in the shell of the cockroach, a discovery researchers hope to build on to change methods of exterminating the pest that has existed since prehistoric times. (AP)

## Hash haul on bus for disabled

LONDON, Nov 25, (AP): Customs officers found 200 kgs (440 lbs) of hashish worth £500,000 (\$780,000) on a bus carrying elderly and disabled people from the French port of Calais to Britain, officials said today.

Three men, two Britons and an Australian, were arrested and were being questioned by customs agents, a spokesman for the customs and excise department said on condition of anonymity.

Customs officers, tipped to the smuggling operation, followed the bus from the British port of Dover to Calais yesterday, then to Holland where the drugs were loaded, then back to Calais to pick up the passengers and finally to London where the drugs were dropped off, the spokesman said.

The passengers, who were on an overnight holiday, knew nothing of the smuggling operation, the spokesman said.

"It was a very crafty operation and the gang probably thought we wouldn't bother a bunch of old ladies," he said.

Customs officials swooped on the bus when it was parked at Woolwich in East London, the spokesman said.

## 17 stranded Antarctic expedition members rescued

MINNEAPOLIS, Nov 25, (AP): A supply plane rescued 17 stranded reporters and support workers yesterday from an Antarctic expedition and prepared to resume flights to six people crossing the continent by dog sleds and skis, a spokesman said.

The 17 journalists, scientists and others who had been stranded at Antarctica's Patriot Hills arrived at the international Trans-Antarctica expedition's base in Punta Arenas, Chile, about 9 am local time (1200 GMT) after a seven-hour flight, said expedition spokeswoman Cathy De Moll in St Paul, Minnesota.

Members of the expedition come from the United States, Soviet Union, France, Great Britain, Japan and China. The expedition, led by Minnesota's Will Steger, is making its seven-month journey to bring world attention to Antarctica and to demonstrate the power of international co-operation.

The adventurers began in July. They and their dogs were in good condition and until yesterday had averaged 24 miles (39 kilometres) a day for the past week, De Moll said.

The group became stranded when the expedition's chartered DC-6 consumed far more fuel than expected en route to Punta Arenas.

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# New drug from Chinese tree shows promise for colon cancer

HOUSTON, Nov 25, (UPI): A drug derived from a Chinese tree can wipe out tumours in laboratory mice with human colon cancer, a finding that may lead to better treatment for thousands of people stricken each year by the disease, researchers said.

No widely effective chemotherapy for colon cancer exists. Some drugs are used after surgical removal of the cancer, but the outlook generally is poor

because the disease often is advanced when found.

Reporting in the journal Science, researchers said the drug 9-aminocamptothecin (9-AC) dramatically shrank tumours in immune-deficient mice implanted with human colon cancer.

Some of the mice lived the equivalent of 20 human years after treatment, they said.

"In 20 years in this lab, we've never

seen anything worth a damn against colon cancer, and here we have animals that are tumour-free," said Dr John Stehlin of Houston's St Joseph Hospital, who co-authored the study.

The drug apparently works by blocking an enzyme necessary for normal cell division and found at extremely high levels in colon cancer cells.

Dr John Laszlo of the American Cancer Society said 9-AC is "very

interesting from a biochemical point of view." But Laszlo emphasised that more work is needed "to establish what the role of this drug ultimately will be in treatment of patients with cancer."

Just last month, the National Cancer Institute made its first major recommendation supporting chemotherapy for colon cancer. NCI said studies show the combination of levamisole and 5-fluorouracil can improve survival

among a subgroup of patients with advanced disease.

But Dr Saul Scheperetz, an NCI drug development expert, said there is a great need for more drugs to treat colon cancer.

"No agents are as good as we would like them to be," he said.

Camptothecin, the drug from which 9-AC is derived, was tested against cancer in the 1960s, but was discarded

because of toxic side effects, meaning it can be given in larger doses for a longer period of time.

Although researchers hope to develop synthetic versions of 9-AC, Laszlo said the drug's "limited availability" would currently make human tests difficult.

In the Texas study, immune-deficient mice were implanted with three types of human colon cancer.

## Drug to prevent nerve damage

NETHERLANDS, Nov 25, (AP): Preliminary tests indicate that Utrecht University researchers have developed a drug that protects some cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy from nerve damage, a university spokesman says.

The drug, a synthetic version of the human acetylcholinesterase (AChE) enzyme, also may be effective against similar damage caused by diabetes and serious injuries, said Willem Gispen, a professor of pharmacology at Utrecht University.

The drug is expected to get Dutch government approval later this year, Gispen said in a telephone interview. Clinical tests also are under way in the United States and Australia, he said.

Frans Cleton, professor of clinical oncology at Leiden University and an expert on chemotherapy, said that "the outlook is very positive" regarding the new drug. It "has worked extremely well with both rats and human beings," Cleton said.

Nerve damage in the arms and legs is a major side effect of cisplatin, a powerful drug administered to patients suffering from cancer in the ovaries, testicles or bladder, Gispen said.

As a result, patients undergoing such chemotherapy frequently suffer from a painful, prickly feeling in their arms and legs, as well as from numbness and loss of muscle co-ordination.

Tests show that the drug developed by the Utrecht researchers prevents nerve damage from occurring during cisplatin therapy, and even appears to restore some nerve functions already damaged, Gispen said.

"It works, but so far, we have no idea how exactly," Gispen said.

He said researchers believe certain chemical agents in the synthetic hormone form a protective layer around nerve ends, and trigger what he called "hidden reserves" in damaged nerves.



Di at gala in aid of Aids

The Princess of Wales meets Joan Collins at a gala dinner in aid of the AIDS Crisis Trust, held at Cliveden House, Berkshire Nov 22. The guests

Included Barry Humphries, (Dame Edna Everage) and Marie Helvin, chairman of the ball committee. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Pandering, pimping charges

# Madam faces trial

LOS ANGELES, Nov 25, (AP): She is accused of pimping sheikhs and millionaire executives with call girls, some of whom later helped police catch drug traffickers and arms dealers as police informants.

Prosecutors even contend celebrities paid up to \$2,000 a day for the sex services. In exchange, the high-priced prostitutes lived a jet-set life, following their customers to Paris, London, Geneva, New York and Las Vegas.

Now, a judge will decide whether to dismiss the case against Elizabeth Adams, known as the Beverly Hills Madam, scheduled to be heard Dec 1.

The prosecutor, Alan Carter, said he is prepared to prosecute Ms Adams on two felony counts of pimping and pandering. But defence attorney Anthony P. Brooklier claims the case should be dismissed because police encouraged Ms Adams to continue her work and provide the department with inside information garnered in her "pillow talk network."

Detective Alan Vanderpool described her service as the best. Vice-Capt James Docherty portrayed Ms Adams as "a multibuck, big-time madam."

When vice officer crashed her US West Coast

prostitution ring last year, Ms Adams at first denied she was a police informant. Later, she recanted, saying she manned an inside pipeline for 16 years.

"Four of my girls married into very prominent families," Ms Adams once said, refusing to name. "They're so polished. These people improved their lives thanks to me."

Ms Adams began working with police in 1972 and relayed to them information her call girls cleaned from their clients, she said in court papers. Her lawyer said she should be shielded from prosecution, or at least kept from incarceration, in exchange for her work as an informant.

Ms Adams, 36, allegedly told police about people who were involved in prostitution rings, along with firearms and narcotics trade.

On the other hand, police allege that a prince once ordered a ski companion for his son through Ms Adams. Most clients, however, were known only by code name.

The charges carry a maximum of seven years in prison.

## Flynn's love letters on sale

LONDON, Nov 25, (Reuter): Kissings and fastidiously part of Errol Flynn's life even when the legendary Hollywood hero was a schoolboy.

London auction house Christie's plans to offer a rare collection of six signed love letters next month that the film star penned from his London boarding school to a friend's sister, Mary White.

"My dear Mary...I was jolly angry with your brother yesterday because he advertised to a lot of the third form that I had arranged to go out with you, of course I slapped their gobs (mouths)," the 13-year-old future swashbuckler wrote in 1922.

Three days later he wrote: "My dear Mary...you struck the right thing about those kisses, there is not much in them on paper, but they are all right when they are real, by Jove, I know, don't you, I should think you would."

Flynn, who died of a heart attack in 1959, wrote about the school in his autobiography "My Wicked, Wicked Ways." He said the two years he spent there were the most dismal of his life.

At the time his mother was in Paris and his father in Australia.

The letters complain about the food and Australian-born Flynn's loneliness. In one he describes the headmaster as "a very fat old man, terrifying when he glared at you like a toad."

Carey Wallace of Christie's said yesterday: "I can't imagine there are any earlier Flynn love letters. They give some fascinating insights into the frustrations of his youth."

The letters, which are expected to fetch about £1,000 (\$1,500), will be auctioned along with a pair of bowler hats which belonged to Laurel and Hardy and imitation diamonds owned by actress Mae West.

Other highlights of the Dec 20, film memorabilia sale are a wedding dress worn by Bette Davis in "The Old Maid" and a velvet robe used by Laurence Olivier in "Henry V." Both stars died this year.

Also up for auction are a signed picture of Mickey Mouse drawn by Walt Disney for the pastryman of the luxury liner Queen Elizabeth and a Russian sable stole worn by Marilyn Monroe in "The Prince and The Showgirl."

## US spirits levels lower

ATLANTA, Georgia, Nov 25, (AP): Americans' consumption of hard liquor has fallen to its lowest level in three decades, federal health researchers report.

The National Center for Disease Control reported yesterday that per-capita consumption of distilled spirits in 1986, the last year for which complete statistics are available, was the lowest since 1959.

The average American drank 0.85 gallons (3.23 litres) of spirits in 1986, the lowest since 1959's 0.84 gallons (3.22 litres), according to researcher Darryl Bertolucci of the Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health Administration.

Preliminary statistics indicate that the decline continued in 1987, to 0.83 gallons (3.19 litres), Bertolucci said.

Distilled spirits are hard liquors such as whiskey, rum, vodka or gin. Beer and wine, which are fermented but not distilled, are considered separately. How ever, CDC statistics show that consumption of alcoholic beverages as a whole is on the decline.

In its weekly report, the CDC said the drop in consumption of distilled spirits between 1985 and 1986 was the sharpest since 1956, in terms of both actual cases sold and the percentage of the decrease. Exact statistics behind those findings were not available yesterday because of the holiday weekend.



File photo of Mathias Rust. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Red Square flier held

### Suspicion of attempted murder

HAMBURG, West Germany, Nov 25, (Reuter): Mathias Rust, the West German flier who landed his light plane alongside Moscow's Red Square in 1987, was placed under arrest yesterday on suspicion of attempted murder, a court spokesman said.

Rust, 21, had made no statement about allegations that he repeatedly stabbed an 18-year-old student nurse with a knife after trying to kiss her, district court spokesman Juergen Daniels said.

But a presiding judge considered the alleged act deliberate and placed Rust under arrest, Daniels told Reuters. He said a prosecutor would now investigate the case.

The alleged attack took place on Thursday at a Hamburg hospital where Rust was doing civilian service, an alternative to military service.

"He is suspected of stabbing her deep in the stomach twice and then several times again," Daniels said.

The girl is in serious condition but her life is no longer in danger," he said. "She remains in intensive care."

After the alleged stabbing, Rust hid the bloody knife in his coat, ran out of the hospital and drove away in his Mercedes-Benz, authorities said. A short while later he telephoned police from a tavern in Hamburg.

Police found Rust sitting in the tavern wearing a floppy black hat. The switchblade was found in a nearby riding stable.

## Newborn baby rescued from trash on Thanksgiving

NEW YORK, Nov 25, (AP): As a family prepared to celebrate the American feast of Thanksgiving, one of its members heard a baby's cry and rescued a newborn boy from a garbage pile in the snow.

The feast was delayed a day, but "it was a beautiful Thanksgiving after all because we saved a baby's life," said Florscelia Saunders, whose nephew Robert Saunders, 31, tore through several bags of garbage to find the infant Thursday evening.

The baby, estimated at about 2 hours old,

had been dumped in a plastic bag in the stack of garbage outside the apartment building where Saunders lives.

Doctors said yesterday the baby suffered from hypothermia, or exposure to the cold, but was in stable condition.

The baby was discovered after two children heard wailing and alerted Saunders, who was walking up the block to join his aunt for Thanksgiving dinner.

"I ripped through all the bags and at the

bottom of one bag there was another bag with the baby," said Saunders. "I yelled up to the women to get the cops and an ambulance."

It was unknown yesterday who put the baby in the trash or why. Police said they questioned a woman in her 20s who was found near the building, but later released her without charging her.

Thanksgiving is an American holiday marking the feast shared by pilgrim settlers from England and native Indians at Plymouth Colony in Massachusetts in 1621.

## PEOPLE AND PLACES

LANCASTER, California: Lawrence A. "Fat" Hyland, the former head of Hughes Aircraft Co. whose inventions helped pioneer radar technology and aircraft communications, died Friday. He was 92.

Hyland died at Antelope Valley Hospital, where he had been admitted Tuesday following a heart attack, Hughes spokesman Bill Herman said.

Hyland served as vice president and chief executive officer at Hughes from 1954 to 1976. He was named the Aerospace firm's president and chairman of the board after founder Howard Hughes died in 1976. (AP)

LONDON: Anonymous screening of blood samples for the killer disease Aids will begin in the UK on January 15 next year, the British government announced Friday.

It is expected to involve testing blood from pregnant women, newborn babies and outpatients at clinics for sexually transmitted diseases.

The government chief medical officer Sir Donald Acheson said the anonymous screening programme was "the only way we can get any type of reliable estimate of the extent to which the virus is spreading in different parts of the country, and in different age groups, and in the two sexes."

He warned that health authorities are dealing with a "lethal virus which someone can carry for several years without knowing it and infect other people." (Kuna)

LOS ANGELES: Two women bilked a Filipino man who feared black magic out of \$10,000 by persuading him that he was ill and could only be saved by having the cash rubbed against his body and then blessed in a paper bag, authorities said Thursday.

Guadalupe Rios Solares, 63, who moved to suburban Woodland Hills from the Philippines in March, became the victim of the bizarre plot when he was waiting Monday to complete a u-turn and a woman knocked on the window of his car, Sgt. Roger Ferguson said. (UPI)

## Granny killer strikes again

### Old lady slain

SYDNEY, Nov 25, (Reuter): A 93-year-old woman found strangled and battered in the hallway of her house in a wealthy Sydney suburb was the fifth victim of the Australian serial killer known as the granny killer, police said today.

The body of Muriel Falconer, who lived alone, was discovered by a neighbour last evening. She was last seen walking home from nearby shops on Thursday in the harbour side suburb of Mosman.

There were no signs of forced entry into her home and it appears at this stage that nothing's been stolen," a police spokesman told journalists.

Murdered Falconer, who could not walk without a stick, was murdered within 500 metres (yards) of the first two victims of the killer, all of whom have been women aged over 80. Two other elderly people have survived attacks.

Police set up a 35-man task force on November 5 after the fourth victim was found strangled with her own stockings in the grounds of a retirement village. An FBI agent with experience of serial killers has been advising the task force.

NAIROBI, Kenya: A leading local environmentalist has asked the high court to ban construction by the ruling party of a 60-storey building in one of the Kenyan capital's public parks.

"If we give the law a chance, I am optimistic the court will rule in our favour," Wangari Maathai, said Saturday.

Mrs Maathai, a former professor of micro anatomy at the University of Nairobi, heads The Green Belt Movement, the East African nation's most vocal environmental group.

In a suit filed at the high court on Friday, Mrs Maathai says the construction of the \$19-million complex at the downtown Uhuru (freedom) Park "is not in the public interest and contravenes the law."

The proposed complex is jointly owned by the Kenya Times Media Trust and the London-based Maxwell Communications Plc. The Media Trust is wholly owned by the Kenya African National Union and publishes the party's three newspapers.

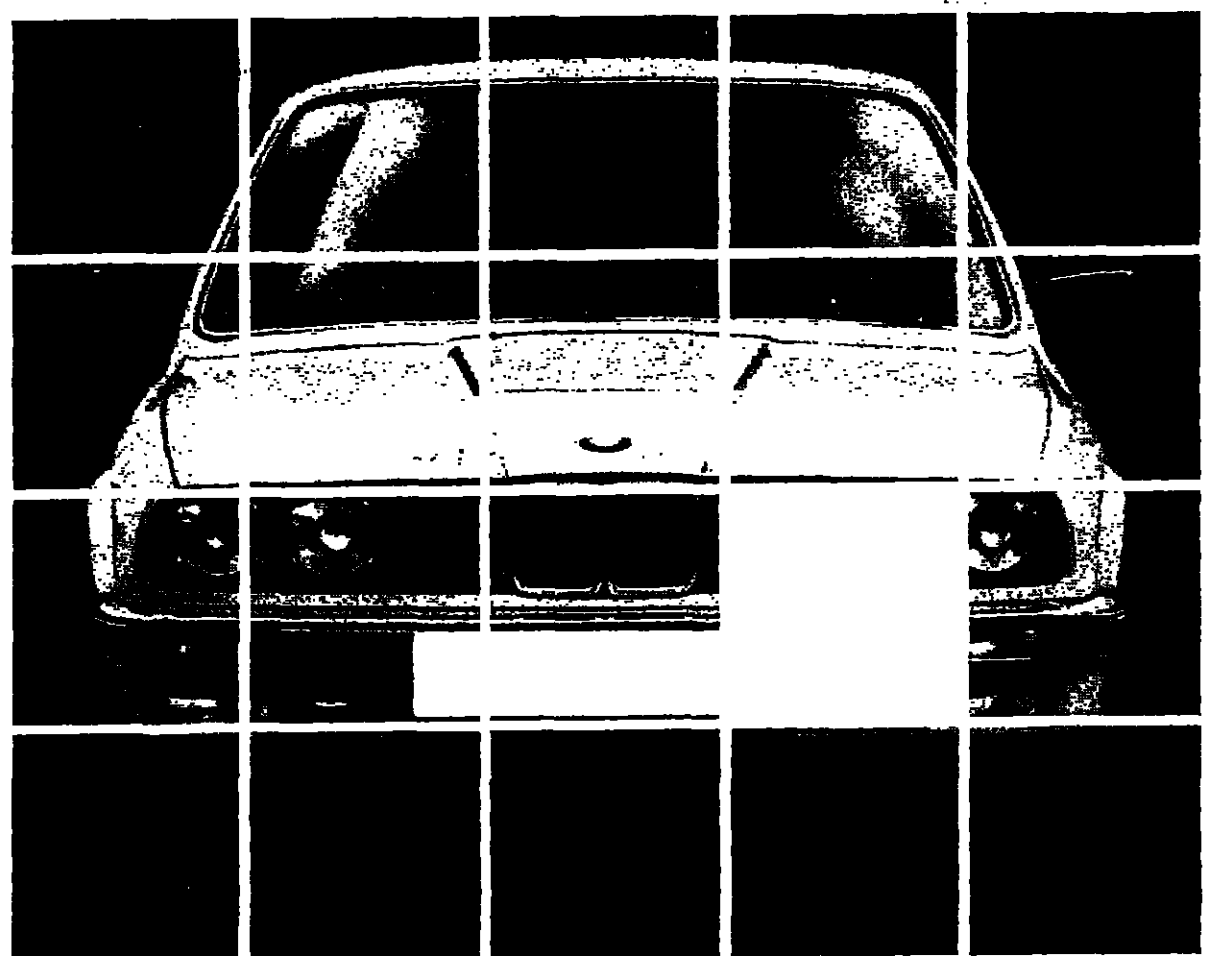
Kanu is the country's sole political party. (AP)

PARIS, France: Police said Friday that they charged a 22-year-old Frenchman with murder after he confessed to shooting and killing a British school teacher who vanished while cycling through the French countryside in August.

Frederick Blackie, a hospital radio operator who was arrested late Thursday on suspicion of involvement in the Aug 14 disappearance, admits to killing Fiona Jones, 26, but has refused to reveal his motives or the location of the body, police said.

Blackie, who is single, lives alone and has no prior police record, told police he saw Jones cycling on the outskirts of Compiègne. He watched as she turned off into a corn field that bordered the country road, police said.

Blackie told police he followed the teacher and attempted to strike up a conversation with her, they said. But Jones did not respond favourably, so Blackie knocked her unconscious and bundled her into his car. He said he then took a gun from the car and killed her, police said. (UPI)



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Lacalle poised for victory

Polis show Sen Luis Lacalle of the opposition National Party as the frontrunner in tomorrow's presidential election, in which the economy is the main issue. Lacalle of the National Party appeared to hold a 29-30 lead over Sen Jorge Balle of the ruling Colorado Party according to Equipes Consultores, the country's most respected polling agency. The race's 10 other candidates split the remainder.

Uruguayans also will vote for vice-president, 30 senators, 99 members of the house of deputies and local governments for the country's 19 departments (provinces).

The main issue was the economy, which grew modestly under President Julio M Sanguinetti, who in 1985 took over from a 12-year military dictatorship. Employment, real wages and gross national product all improved.

Picture shows Lacalle at a press conference. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Polarisation in Brazilian polls

RIO DE JANEIRO, Nov 25. (AP): The December presidential election runoff between a socialist labour leader and a conservative free-market advocate is heightening tensions between the rich and the poor, the political right and the left, analysts say.

"This radical polarisation is dangerous for Brazil, which now must choose between two extremes that do not represent all political options," says representative Fabio Feldman of the centre-left Brazilian Social Democracy Party.

Some fear that civilian rule in Brazil, battered by a stagnant economy and the Third World's largest foreign debt at \$110 billion, may not be ready for such a test.

The Nov 15 presidential election, in which some 82 million Brazilians voted, gave no candidate the needed majority, forcing a Dec 17 runoff between the top two finishers — rightist Fernando Collor de Mello and socialist Luis Inacio Lula da Silva.

The winner will take office March 15, 1990, as the country's first directly elected president in 29 years.

Civilian President Jose Sarney, scored since his four economic policies failed to halt 1,300 per cent annual inflation, took office in a 1985 electoral college vote co-ordinated by the military.

With two ideological opposites vying for the presidency, some political analysts fear the election in Latin America's largest nation is heightening tensions between rich and poor, even though both candidates portray themselves as champions of the impoverished.

The prospect of a socialist victory upsets right-wing military leaders, who traditionally have had a major influence in Brazilian politics.

The armed forces ruled Brazil from 1964 to 1985, and played a strong role in shaping policy in Sarney's government.

Prominent industrialists say a Da Silva victory would accelerate capital flight and prompt businessmen to flee the country en masse.

Labour leaders counter that plummeting buying power, unemployment and inflation will worsen with Collor de Mello in office and cause mounting social unrest to boil over.

"We are now facing the dilemma of choosing between one man's saviour and another man's devil," said Jair Men-

## Second round Trading charges

SAO PAULO, Nov 25. (Reuters): Leftist Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, accused by his right-wing opponent in Brazil's presidential election of preaching bloody revolution, says his adversary is killing rural workers by paying them low wages.

The accusations being traded between Lula and Fernando Collor de Mello open a rough, no-holds-barred campaign for the second and decisive round of the election, set for Dec 17.

The campaign will officially begin on Nov 28, but the two candidates are already sharpening their barbs.

Lula, candidate of the radical Workers' Party (PT), told a radio station in the big southern city of Porto Alegre on Thursday that Collor's family was killing rural workers.

He was responding to an accusation by Collor on Wednesday that the PT preaches the armed struggle and the conquest of power through the shedding of blood.

"It's those who are paying the minimum wage, like the family of my opponent in his companies, who are practicing the shedding of blood, killing rural workers," said Lula.

Collor is from a rich business family in the northeast state of Alagoas, while Lula is a former lathe operator who won national fame as a Sao Paulo strike leader during the 1964-85 military dictatorship.

President Jose Sarney yesterday promised urgent medical help for Brazil's 9,000 Yanomami Indians, the biggest tribe of forest Indians left in the Americas.

egueli, president of Brazil's central workers' union.

Collor de Mello is an articulate, 40-year-old ex-governor blessed with wealth, good looks and charismatic appeal. He founded his National Reconstruction Party last February on a vague platform of moral cleanup, and two months later was at the top of public opinion polls.

Police clashed yesterday with hundreds of anti-racism protesters who ransacked stores in the southern city of Porto Alegre, leaving one dead and dozens hurt, the nation's largest television network reported.

# Rights group raps Salvador carnage

Panel raises questions on priests' murder probe

SAN SALVADOR, Nov 25. (AP): A human rights monitoring group has released a report accusing both the government and the rebels fighting it of causing civilian deaths during the guerrillas' two-week-old offensive.

The report, released by Americas Watch, said the armed forces "engaged in targeted killings, arbitrary detentions of non-combatants and torture," while it chided the rebels "for using civilians as shields."

Salvadoran legislators yesterday debated a proposed law that would curb activities by union, peasant and human rights groups, and officials said a witness to last week's killing of six Jesuit priests and two other

advantage of the fighting to settle old scores.

It cited a series of raids on churches and church-run shelters, the slaying of the Roman Catholic priests, death threats to church officials and the arrests and expulsions of foreign church workers.

The report also raised questions about how the investigation was proceeding into the slayings of six Jesuit priests, alleged by two witnesses to have been committed by men wearing the Salvadoran Army uniforms. The inquiry is being conducted by rightist President Alfredo Cristiani's government.

"As Commander-in-Chief of the Salvadoran armed forces, President Cristiani should be able to learn which unit patrolled the University of Central America campus on the night of Nov 15-16," the report contended.

"He should be able to determine what units patrolled the roads leading to campus. He should be able to determine how a large contingent of heavily armed men identified themselves as they came on to the campus. He should be able to determine how the unit patrolling the campus responded when they heard the shooting with heavy weapons..." the report said.

A US embassy spokesman said one of the two reported witnesses to the killings had left the country.

"A departure was worked out in conjunction with the Salvadoran government and French, Spanish, US and British officials," said embassy spokesman Jeff Brown.

The head of the Jesuit order in Central America, Jose Maria Tojeira, identified the witness as Lucia Barrera Cerna. Officials said she had been staying in the Spanish embassy since the killings.

Attorney-General Mauricio Colorado quoted the woman, who had worked as a housekeeper at Central American University, as saying she saw men "dressed in military uniforms" killing the Jesuits, their housekeeper and her daughter.



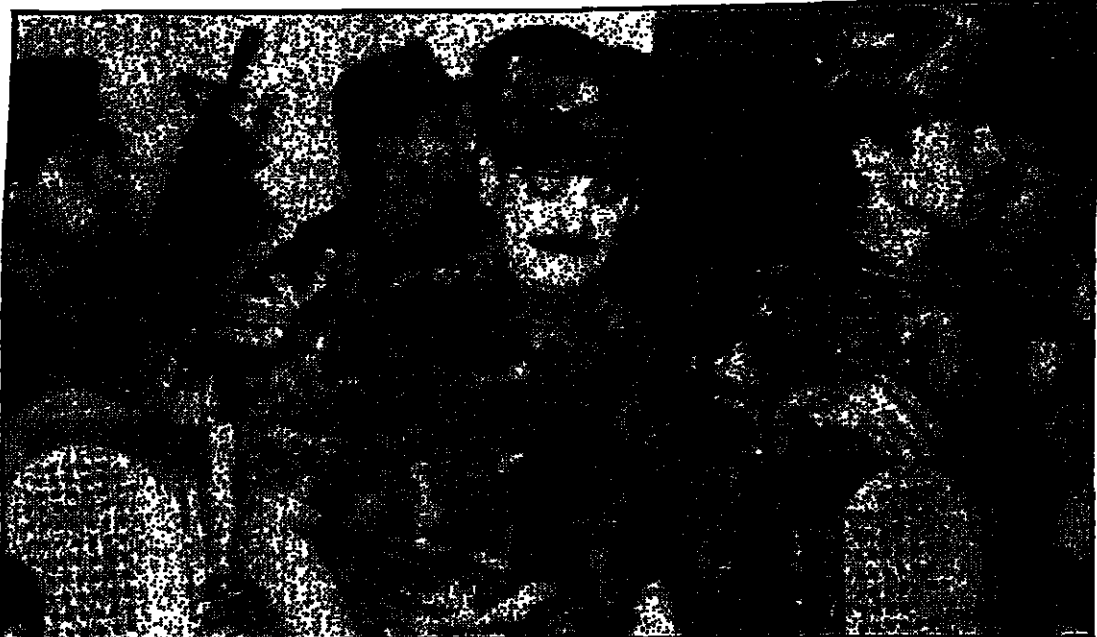
The only witness to the massacre of six Jesuit priests, Lucia Barrera (centre), has fled from San Salvador to the US.

people had fled the country.

The Americas Watch report, called "Carnage Again," said the air force "as far as it is possible to determine, cause great loss of civilian life by indiscriminate aerial attacks in slum neighbourhoods."

It criticised both sides for "impeding medical care for the wounded," who could not be evacuated because of the heavy fighting in San Salvador.

Americas Watch also contended that the offensive led to human rights violations by the military as "government forces apparently took



Rene Emilio Ponce (centre) leaves a press conference Nov 23 as his guards keep a wary eye. (Reuters wirephoto)

## 1990 World Cup blessed Pope plans 6th visit to Africa

VATICAN CITY, Nov 25. (Reuters): Pope John Paul will visit West Africa in January, his sixth trip to the continent.

A Vatican statement said the Pope would arrive in the Cape Verde islands on Jan 25 for a three-day visit before going on to Guinea-Bissau.

He will also visit Mali, Burkina Faso and Chad, ending his tour on Feb 1.

Pope Paul today blessed the World Cup soccer finals which will be held in Italy next year, but said he was worried about hooliganism in sport.

"I take this opportunity to offer my warm best wishes for a happy World Cup," the pontiff told a Vatican conference on ethics in sport.

But he cautioned: "We are all worried about the possibility of sport degenerating into behaviour which dishonours its high ideals...we must avoid the sporting masses being led astray."

The Pope also urged Italian churchmen to help ensure the World Cup contributes to peace, advising "cool reflection on an event which will certainly involve millions and millions of people."

Two people died and more than 500 were injured in fighting



Pope John Paul among Italian fans during last season's league games.

The 12 stadiums being prepared for the Cup will have numbered seats only. Tournament organisers say this will reduce the risk of violence and help officials control access.

## Cocaine czar flees in panic

BOGOTA, Nov 25. (UPI): Fugitive cocaine czar Pablo Escobar escaped in his underwear into Colombia's northern jungles, eluding fighting soldiers who killed two of his Medellin cartel bodyguards and captured 55 suspects, police said.

Soldiers fanned out in helicopters and speedboats across Colombia's densely forested Antioquia state, near a ranch allegedly controlled by Escobar, the reputed head of Colombia's most powerful cocaine empire, who is wanted for extradition to the United States.

"Escobar seems to be in the area," Gen. Octavio Vargas, the national police operations director, told Bogota's Caracol radio. "We are going to continue the search as long as necessary."

Vargas confirmed previous reports that Escobar escaped in only his underwear as police and army helicopters on Thursday assaulted the ranch house in the Magdalena river valley where he had been hiding.

Medellin drug chieftain Jose Rodriguez Gacha and one of the drug-trafficking Ochoa brothers also were believed to have escaped the raids that began Wednesday night and continued Thursday, Vargas said.

Two members of Escobar's private army were killed and five wounded in the fighting, said Brig. Gen. Miguel Antonio Gomez Padilla, commander of the national police. There were no reported security force casualties, he said.

Soldiers arrested 55 bodyguards and reputed associates, whose fierce fighting apparently allowed Escobar and other cartel leaders to escape, officials said.

Escobar's personal documents and a telephone list containing the names of people closely linked to Escobar were found at the ranch, police said.

Escobar, Gacha, and the Ochoa brothers — Jorge Luis, Juan David and Fabio — allegedly ran the Medellin cocaine cartel, the country's most prominent drug ring. The Medellin network reportedly supplies 80 per cent of the cocaine consumed in the United States.

# Anti-racist whites rally

Call to end apartheid

JOHANNESBURG, Nov 25. (AP): More than 1,000 whites staged an unprecedented march in a black neighbourhood today and joined some 50,000 township residents in calling for an end to race discrimination.

The "march of hope" began this morning outside a hospital in the southern coastal city of Port Elizabeth and travelled three miles (5 kms) to the New Brighton township, growing in numbers along the way.

Tens of thousands of cheering black residents who filled the streets greeted the whites, including children and senior citizens, when they reached the township. Some youths climbed on rooftops to get a view of the visitors.

"The spontaneous welcome was amazing," said Flip Potgieter, a city councillor in Port Elizabeth. "This was an amazing experience."

New Brighton's assembly hall was packed, and thousands stood outside to hear whites express solidarity with blacks in seeking an end to apartheid, South Africa's system of legalised race segregation.

"This shows that good will exists in Port Elizabeth and that not all whites support apartheid," said Ronnie van Wyk, a lecturer at the University of Port Elizabeth.

"You must take this message to your homes and help forge this unity which will take us to a new, non-racial, democratic South Africa," said Michael Xhego, a black anti-apartheid leader. "We hope the whole security will learn from this march and follow suit."

Few South African whites visit the country's black residential areas, and today's demonstration marked the first organised march by white citizens into a township. Police kept a low profile, and no incidents were reported.

President F W de Klerk said in September that the government would no longer break up lawful demonstrations, and since then there have been dozens of peaceful anti-government marches throughout the country.

The decision to allow protests is part of De Klerk's larger effort to reduce racial conflict in South Africa. In his latest move, he announced yesterday that four neighbourhoods around the country would be open to all races, easing a 39-year-old policy of strict residential segregation.

Activists said the announcement was largely symbolic, and called on the government to abolish segregated neighbourhoods nationwide.

The far-right Conservative Party said the move was a blow to whites who seek a "separate community life."

"I hope this will be proof of the



Anwar Nagla, an opponent of apartheid, said anyone who goes to District 6 will go to 'hell'. District 6 is one of the first areas in South Africa to be declared open to all races.

government's serious attempt to normalise a lot of situations in our country," said Planning Minister Hennis Kriel.

But he said the government would protect the rights of whites who wanted to live in racially exclusive enclaves and who wanted their children to go to all-white schools.

"People who want to live within their own communities must be given that right," Kriel said in a television interview.

De Klerk has said he wants to bring the 28 million blacks into the national government, but he has made clear his opposition to a one-man, one-vote system and black majority rule.

Meanwhile, South Africa's main opposition parties pressed De Klerk today to appoint an independent judicial inquiry into allegations about a police assassination squad.

The white, rightist Conservative Party and the anti-apartheid Democratic Party said separately it was inappropriate for police to probe charges of police killings.

"Police have begun an internal investigation into allegations by three policemen that a police death squad had carried out a string of political assassinations at home and abroad in recent years."

"I don't think the police themselves should investigate this," Conservative Party spokesman Moolman Mentz told Reuters. "It's not appropriate for them to be the judge."

Democratic Party leaders told a news conference De Klerk's integrity and commitment to negotiating with opponents on reforms to apartheid were at stake in his handling of the affair.

The allegations could be solved only by a judicial inquiry, they said.

**Yellow fever outbreak:** State health officials have identified a disease that has claimed 49 lives in southeastern Nigeria as yellow fever. Dr Chigozie Ogbu, Imo state health commissioner, said on Friday that 14 vaccination centres have been set up to check the spread of the epidemic. More than 53,000 people had been vaccinated since the campaign began on Monday, he said.

**Yellow fever,** which is endemic to Nigeria, is spread by the bite of a mosquito. (AP)

**African migration:** One out of every five African migrants today is a refugee and one refugee out of every two in the world is African, according to a new study published by the International Labour Office (ILO) on Thursday.

The study notes that violence and war are increasingly altering the face of migration within the African continent. An estimated 35 million Africans live outside their own country — 10 per cent of the total population of sub-Saharan Africa.

For the most part, migration in sub-Saharan Africa is no longer a matter of individual choice but is driven by the fear of armed conflicts and by the spectre of hunger that hovers over an increasing number of periodically drought-stricken countries. (Rena)

**39 Mexican inmates break out of jail:** Thirty-nine inmates, including convicted murderers, broke out of a Mexican prison on Friday, the second big jail break in 10 days, police said. Only one has been recaptured.

In the pre-dawn escape at the Rio Verde district jail north of Mexico City, 39 prisoners made a hole in a 5-inch (13-cm) thick wall using tools they had smuggled out of the prison carpentry workshop, a police spokesman said.

On Nov 14, 97 prisoners, including some with ties to drug smuggling rings, dug a 40-yard (36-metre) tunnel out of the top security prison in Sinaloa State. (Reuters)

**Editor's home burnt:** The house of a leading opposition magazine editor was nearly destroyed by a fire on Friday while a bomb exploded in a bank, the fourth in two days and just three weeks before the first elections since a 1973 coup.

Assailants entered the home of Juan Pablo Cardenas, editor of the magazine "Analisis" and an outspoken critic of the military government, spread gasoline and set it on fire, magazine employees said. The house was nearly destroyed.

## 2,500 march in 5th Ave fur protest

NEW YORK, Nov 25. (AP): A popular television game show host, joined by 2,500 animal rights activists, marched through one of New York City's richest shopping districts yesterday to try to discourage holiday shoppers from buying furs.

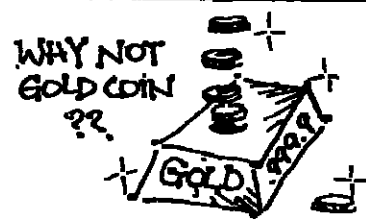
"There are only two reasons anyone would wear fur today," Bob Barker, a well known television personality, said before the march past the chic shops along the city's Fifth Avenue. "One is the person is uninformed and doesn't know any better. And two, the person is totally insensitive."

In Miami, vandals painted over a fur-storage

company's windows. Protesters were scheduled in cities around the country.

Barker led the marchers for the second straight year. He led a chant of "if you don't buy them, they won't kill them — don't buy fur," outside Saks Fifth Avenue during the fourth annual "fur-free Friday" event.

Five women dressed as skeletons marched carrying a sign that said, "Fur is dead." Others in the crowd, which stretched for four blocks, held signs reading "fake people wear real fur," and "fur belongs on its real back."

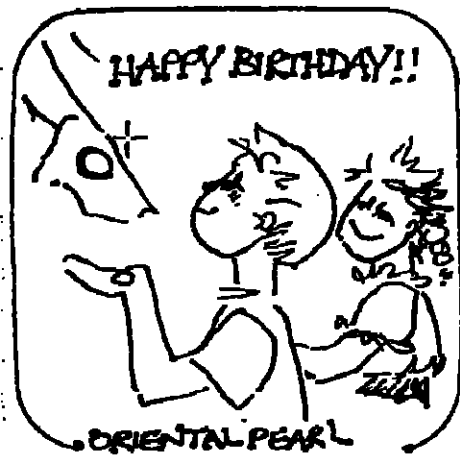


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ORIENTAL PEARL



# Bush, Thatcher agree on Europe

Nato, Warsaw Pact will stay

LONDON, Nov 25, (AP): Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher came home today after talks with US President George Bush, ending in agreement on East-West issues but discord over the forcible repatriation of Vietnamese refugees in Hong Kong.

Mrs Thatcher made no comments when she arrived at Heathrow Airport from Washington. But Foreign Office Minister William Waldegrave rejected Bush's criticism of Britain's plans to send back 57,000 Vietnamese who fled their communist homeland and are now in camps in Hong Kong.

Waldegrave accepted that the United States found the policy distasteful. He said in a British Broadcasting Corp. radio interview that Britain also found the policy distasteful.

But he asked: "What are we supposed to do? They cannot just sit there in those camps getting cholera. We

have to do something. I do not know what else there is to do. Everyone shares the anxiety.

"We have tried to persuade the international community to take them. The international community will not take them — not America, not Sweden, not Switzerland, not Australia, not anybody," he said.

Asked whether Bush should "put up or shut up," Waldegrave replied: "I would never address the President in such a way. It might be a gloss on the rather more diplomatic language we would use."

Disagreement over the Vietnamese refugees was the only major note of discord between the President and the prime minister during their 4 1/2-hour meeting yesterday at Camp David, the presidential retreat outside Washington, British officials said.

Over lunch on a snowy day, the two leaders focused on the momentous changes in Eastern Europe and Bush's talks next week with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

British officials said the two leaders reached broad agreement on how the West should respond to the Soviet bloc changes and were united that Nato and the Warsaw Pact must remain intact.

Bush's press secretary Martin Fitzwater said: "The two leaders agreed on the need for European stability as Nato faces the changes in Eastern Europe."

He said the President and the prime minister supported glasnost and perestroika, the new Soviet policies of openness and economic restructuring.

"They both emphasized the pursuit of democracy as the first step in reform process," Fitzwater said.

"Just before leaving, Washington, Thatcher declared that she considered Gorbachev to be 'firmly in the saddle,' with no Kremlin rivals on the horizon. Even so, she cautioned the West to do nothing which might destabilise his position."

The prime minister told a news conference she does not expect "great or unusual pronouncements from this (Bush-Gorbachev) meeting."

"I don't think there will be a great deal of difficulty or sudden surprises about this meeting," she said.

"I don't think there will be a great deal of difficulty or sudden surprises about this meeting," she said.

As to nervousness from some quarters that Gorbachev's support for East Bloc reform efforts might foreshadow a diminished role for Nato and Warsaw Pact forces, Thatcher said: "Nato is absolutely vital" to Europe's continued defence.

A senior Labour politician Denis Healey warned yesterday that contenders for Thatcher's leadership will not be able to stage an "Eastern European-style coup."

The former Labour defence secretary, referring to yesterday's interview in the London Times newspaper with Thatcher, said she was now saying she intends "to stay on forever by public acclaim."

This meant bad news for contenders like the Conservative party chairman Kenneth Baker, and the former defence secretary Michael Heseltine, Healey added in his usual acid manner.

## West seeks to grab chance

Arms accord likely

BRUSSELS, Nov 25, (Reuters): The crumbling of the post-war order in Eastern Europe has changed the way the Warsaw Pact works and improved the chances for an arms agreement between the East and West, officials say.

"It makes the East easier to deal with," a senior Western official closely involved in Vienna negotiations on troops and heavy equipment told reporters in Brussels yesterday.

But the official, who asked not to be identified, said the pace of political change in countries like East Germany, Hungary and Poland was so fast that the Nato Western alliance would have to wrap up an agreement soon.

"It adds to the Western perspective a sense of urgency about getting the job done," he said.

"No one knows what will happen next. We should get the best possible agreement before something happens that makes it more difficult... the window of opportunity may be small."

Nato diplomats say there is some concern that Eastern Europe, and the Soviet-led military alliance to which its nations belong, could descend into chaos.

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, whose reforms in his own country have sparked a wave of "people power" behind the once-formidable Iron Curtain, could be ousted and there could be an attempt to reinstate hardline communist rule.

Dr. ... something Nato fears almost as much — the process of change could develop such momentum that the Warsaw Pact would no longer be a coherent negotiating partner.

Prospects are still good that a treaty can be signed at the 23-nation Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) talks by next

autumn, the official said. Nato has proposed cutting US and Soviet troops from the Atlantic to the Urals to 275,000 on each side and scrapping some heavy equipment.

Irishatareprobably the most complex and detailed arms negotiations in history, the Warsaw Pact has said it wants to include other allied forces in West Germany in the talks.

The conference has yet to reach agreement on tanks, armoured vehicles, helicopters and fighter planes and sort out tricky details on verification.

The change in the Warsaw Pact's approach to negotiations is a clear testimony to political changes, the official said.

"The Warsaw Pact was simply an extension of the Soviet general staff. That edifice is beginning to crumble."

"If Hungary or Poland don't like an idea, they'll argue about it... we are beginning to see some of the co-ordination problems for them that Nato has always had," he said.

US Defence Secretary Dick Cheney will meet with Nato defence ministers in Brussels Nov 28-29 where fast-moving events in Eastern Europe are expected to "overwhelm the agenda," an official said yesterday.

Cheney leaves Washington today for the Netherlands. He'll meet with the prime minister of that country and visit an American military unit before proceeding to Belgium for the annual Nato defence planning committee meeting.

President George Bush says the changes in Eastern Europe raise the possibility of US troop reductions abroad but said no such cuts were imminent and none would be made unilaterally.

## Swiss vote on army abolition

Proposal generates debate

GENEVA, Nov 25, (AP): Swiss voters decide tomorrow whether to disband the country's militia army in a referendum without precedent worldwide.

The proposed constitutional amendment states simply, "Switzerland has no army." The government has asked voters to reject it, contending that Swiss neutrality and independence can only be guaranteed if the country retains a credible defence force.

Even supporters admit the proposal is headed for certain defeat. But if it gains close to 30 per cent of the national vote, as predicted by some pollsters, it is bound to send shock waves throughout the military establishment.

The country's 625,000-strong reserve force, which can be mobilised in less than 48 hours, is rooted in centuries-old tradition.

Although the country has not fought in foreign wars since 1515, it can field more men per square kilometre than any other European country, has more artillery pieces than its much larger neighbour

West Germany, and has a fleet of battle tanks half that of France.

Every Swissman is required to do military service, starting with 17 weeks of basic training at age 20, followed by 13 call-ups of two or three weeks until age 50.

The proposal to abolish the army by the year 2000 was launched three years ago when pacifists and left-wingers started collecting the necessary 100,000 signatures needed to force a popular vote under Switzerland's form of direct democracy.

The "Switzerland without an army group" claims the country, with its population of 6.4 million people, would stand no chance in a war and that abolition of the army would set a new example for global peace.

Andreas Gross, a 37-year-old political scientist and spokesman for the pacifist group, concedes the country's traditionally conservative voters will reject the proposal. But he says it has injected a new dynamism into Swiss politics.



A Korean Air Lines airplane smoulders near the runway of Seoul's international airport early on Nov 25 after it crashed on takeoff. (Reuters wirephoto)

Fokker breaks into two: 21 hurt

## 54 survive KAL jet crash

SEOUL, Nov 25, (Reuters): Twenty-one people were hurt when a Korean Air Lines jet with 54 people on board crashed on take-off from Seoul's Kimpo airport today and caught fire, an airline spokesman said.

A KAL spokesman said several people had broken bones but no lives were in danger.

The crash of the Fokker F28 was KAL's second in four months. A DC-10 crashed in Tripoli on July 27, killing 74 of the 199 people on board and another six people on the ground.

The aircraft was about 10 metres (30 feet) off the ground when passengers said there was

a bang from one of the rear-mounted engines.

The right engine lost power, the right wing dipped and clipped the ground and the aircraft smashed into the ground, bursting into flames, airline spokesman Lee Taek-Young said.

KBS, the state broadcasting system, quoted government safety officials as saying it appeared the flight crew attempted a takeoff before the plane had gained sufficient speed. The plane crashed about halfway down the runway, the reports said.

The crash broke the plane in two and ripped off the right wing, one of the two engines and

the landing gear, according to witnesses at the scene.

One passenger, Cho Hyeon-To, said the plane appeared to climb about 100 metres (yards) into the air when it began tilting to the left, according to Yonhap. The businessman said the pilot tried to tilt right to correct the problem, but the plane plunged nose first into the ground, it said.

The Korean Broadcasting System, the state-owned radio, quoted witnesses as saying they saw flames shooting from the plane as it began climbing.

## Stay out of politics, Islamic group told

JOGIAKARTA, Nov 25, (Reuters): President Suharto, who heads the world's largest Muslim population, told the country's leading Islamic organisation today to keep out of politics.

"There are wider areas for building up this country than through political activity," he said at the opening of the five-yearly Congress of Nahdlatul Ulama.

"Nahdlatul Ulama's determination to be a social and religious organisation is the right decision," Suharto added.

With 30 million members Nahdlatul

Ulama, which was established in 1926 and is Indonesia's oldest organisation, is the biggest Islamic group in the country which has more than 140 million Muslims all told.

Political analysts said the Suharto government, which has kept tight control on the country for more than 20 years, sees Muslim fundamentalism as the major threat to stability and has managed largely to neutralise its impact on politics.

But with such a huge membership it was inevitable that Nahdlatul Ulama would have significant influence despite officially withdrawing from politics 15 years ago.

"They are bigger than any political party in Indonesia. No wonder everybody is trying to get on their side," said one analyst.

General elections are due in 1992.

Discuss

Nahdlatul Ulama, which represents the country's orthodox Muslims, took part in elections in 1971 and later linked up with the Islam-backed United Development Party.

The four-day meeting in this ancient

Javanese city, surrounded by Buddhist, Hindu and Muslim monuments, will discuss this issue and other policies and elect a new chairman to replace Aburachman Wachid.

## Thailand proposes new power-sharing formula for Cambodia

BANGKOK, Nov 25, (UPI): Thai Deputy Prime Minister Bhichai Rattakul said today that Thailand has proposed to Vietnam a new form of power-sharing to settle the conflict in Cambodia.

Bhichai, speaking on his return from a four-day visit to Vietnam, said Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhavan instructed him to discuss with Vietnamese leaders new proposals for dividing power among

the four Cambodian factions in an interim government.

The Vietnamese-backed Cambodian government has refused proposals to share power equally among the three resistance factions and the government set up after the 1978 Vietnamese invasion.

"Vietnam said it was unfair for the Phnom Penh government which occupies more than 80 per cent of the country to

receive only a quarter of the power," Bhi-chai said.

"There are other forms of sharing of power, as well. I have already informed them (Vietnam) of another formula and they agreed with my proposal," he said.

Bhichai, however, declined to describe the Thai proposal.

He said the Cambodian problem must be tackled with a comprehensive solution, but he said it may not be possible to achieve every step at once.

A prince's offer of gold has sweetened the pot of rewards being offered by the four warring factions to tempt defections and military booty-hunters in the Cambodian conflict.

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## INTERNATIONAL

## Chinese leaders buying stability

BEIJING, Nov 25, (Reuters): China's leaders are buying stability by ensuring that several million workers forced into redundancy under unpopular austerity measures have enough money for food, a senior trade union official said.

Releasing official figures for the first time, Chen Ji of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions, told Reuters yesterday that about two to three per cent of the industrial workforce in major cities had been sent home since last year.

He estimated this totalled "several million" workers across China who had been made redundant by factories which had stopped or cut production for lack of funds, materials and buyers.

"Some workers feel this has happened very suddenly. They don't understand," said Chen, a deputy director of the federation's central office.

Chen said dissatisfaction among workers following on the heels of mass demonstrations six months ago could not lead to the kind of changes sweeping Eastern Europe.

"No one can replace the Communist Party in China... Eastern Europe has different historical conditions," he said.

China's student-led protest movement, crushed by the army in Beijing in June, had failed to bring out large numbers of workers on strike, Chen said.

"Workers do not support chaos," he added.

"China's economy has become sick, it is true. But we still have confidence we can overcome this."

## Worst affected

Sectors worst affected by the austerity programme launched 15 months ago were car manufacturers, the construction industry, textile and machinery factories and makers of consumer goods.

"In China we have a saying—spend money to buy stability," said Chen.

He disclosed that the government would make sure with subsidies that the per capita monthly income for families in major cities would not fall below 50 yuan (\$13.5).

"If we take these measures there won't be any social instability," Chen said. He described it as "big financial burden" but did not disclose the overall cost to the government.

Chen recognised that 50 yuan a month in Beijing was barely enough to eat with.

Diplomats and Western businessmen backed Chen's view that industrial unrest was unlikely to erupt in China, at least in the near future, but they said efficiency would fall as workers found little incentive to perform well.

Striking workers would find little support in the trade union federation which is loyal to the Communist Party.

Workers interviewed in Beijing have said they are being driven to the wall by the austerity measures, their plight worsened by recent compulsory purchases of government bonds.

To bring down inflation from record levels and cool its overheated economy, China has curbed credit, cut investment, stopped construction projects and tightened control of foreign trade.

Inflation has fallen from a high of around 30 per cent to about 12 per cent at present. But industrial output has also plummeted with last month's output 2.1 per cent down on October, 1988, the first fall since reforms were launched in 1978.

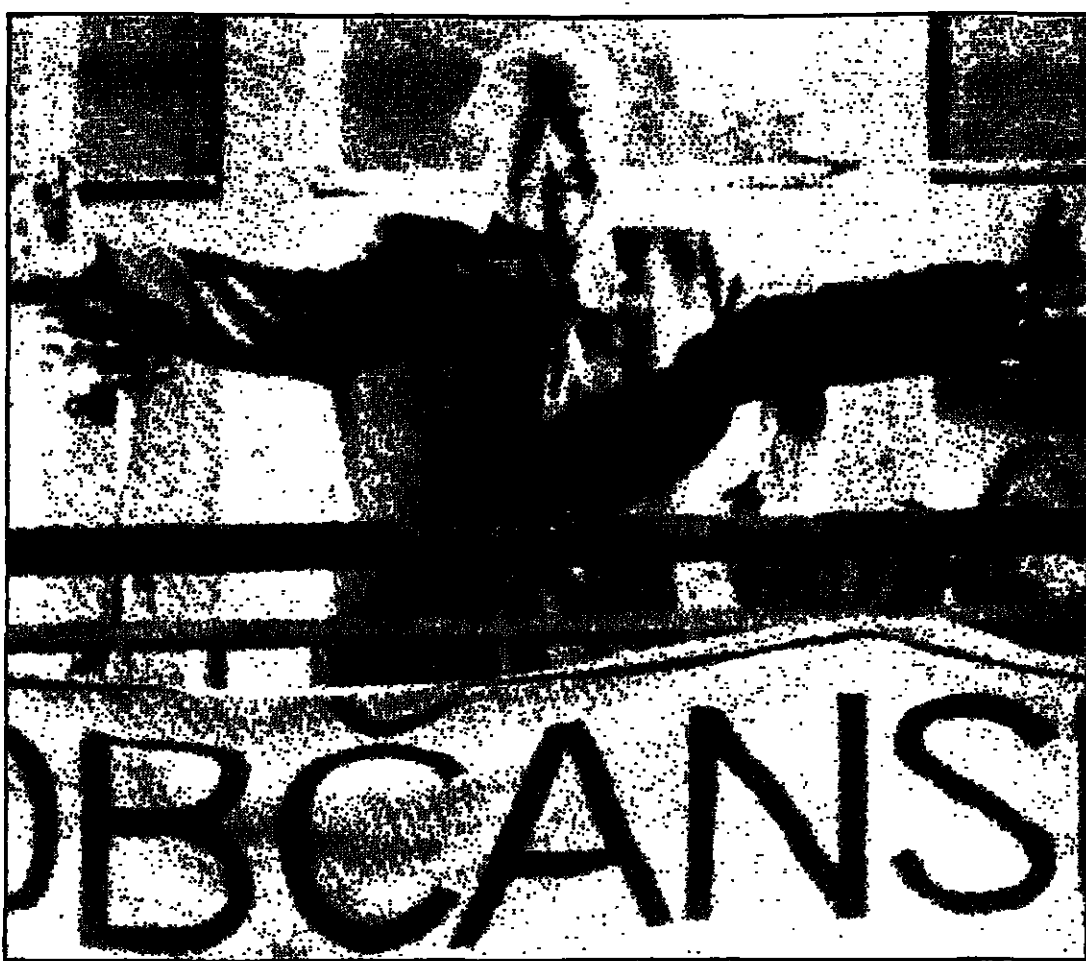
The Chinese government warned the United Nations and Western countries yesterday not to meddle in its affairs by "prattling human rights slogans."

"Some people may disagree with us, but it does not matter," Chinese Ambassador Ding Yuanhong told the UN third committee on social issues, which is considering the question of human rights. "All we hope is that they will not try to impose their views on us, still less take actions detrimental to China's interests."

Ding, China's deputy permanent representative, said the international community must respect various sovereign nations' differing views of human rights.

Thousands of young people hoisted shovels today as Beijing broke ground on a mass volunteer labour movement aimed at changing the attitudes blamed by the communist government for pro-democracy protests.

City officials said up to 100,000 students, communist youth league members, young factory workers and soldiers would volunteer their services, mostly for work around the site of the Asian Games to be held in Beijing next September.



Dubcek waves to crowds who gathered in Wenceslas Square on Nov 24 to hear him speak. (Reuters wirephoto)

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**France frees 3 on bail:** A French investigating magistrate on Friday freed on bail three Northern Ireland loyalists charged with illegal arms trafficking, judicial sources said.

John Little, 41, Samuel Quinn, 42, and James King, 51, were arrested in Paris on April 21. Police said they were trying to sell to a South African diplomat a stolen model of a British blowpipe anti-aircraft missile being built in Northern Ireland.

South African Daniel Storm, arrested with the Britons in a Paris hotel, was among three of Pretoria's diplomats ordered to leave France over the affair. (Reuters)

**N. Korean soldier defects:** A North Korean soldier defected to South Korea earlier Saturday through the eastern sector of the border between the two Koreas, the Defence Ministry said. A spokesman for the ministry identified the defector as Kim Soe-il, assigned to the North Korean Army's 25th Infantry.

Kim crossed the border at 7.10 am (2210 GMT Friday) and came to a South Korean army outpost 16 miles (26 km) north of Hwachon 55 miles (89 km) northeast of Seoul, the spokesman said. He was in combat uniform and carried an AK-47 rifle, the spokesman said. (AP)

**Bomb rocks Dutch railway:** A bomb explosion seriously damaged a small railway station in the Dutch village of Vierlingsbeek but nobody was hurt, police said Saturday.

"It was a heavy, home-made device. It exploded at a time the station was unmanned and no trains were near," police spokesman Jan Harmse said of Friday night's blast.

"I do not think it's a terrorist attack. What the hell would a terrorist aim for in such a small sleepy town as Vierlingsbeek," he said, adding juvenile delinquents could possibly be responsible for the blast. (Reuters)

**Kaifu to improve ties:** Japanese Premier Toshiki Kaifu said Saturday he is determined to improve relations with South Korea after the general elections at the beginning of next year.

During his encounter with former secretary-general of the Japanese Socialist Party Makoto Tanabuchi, Kaifu showed concern in resolving the Japanese sailors' problem.

Japanese sailors accused of spying have been detained in South Korea since 1983. (Kuna)

**Party to drop communist name:** The central committee of Italy's Communist Party on Friday backed plans to transform it into a Social Democrat grouping, despite fierce opposition from hardline members.

After a week of tense and often bitter debate, the central committee of the West's largest Communist Party voted 219 to 73 in support of a proposal by leader Achille Occhetto to drop the communist name and abandon the hammer and sickle emblem.

It said an extraordinary Congress of the 1.7

## KGB behind Pope shooting

## Admit: Agca

ROME, Nov 25, (Reuters): The man who shot and wounded Pope John Paul says Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, who meets the pontiff next week, should tell the world Moscow was behind the 1981 attack.

In an interview published today, Mehmet Ali Agca, a Turk serving a life sentence for the shooting, said the "Soviet KGB asked the Bulgarian secret services to find someone willing" to shoot the Pope.

Agca, 30, interviewed in a maximum security jail in Ascoli Piceno north-east of Rome by the newspaper Corriere Della Sera, also claimed to be the new messiah.

Gorbachev will meet the Pope at the Vatican on Friday in the first encounter between a pontiff and a Kremlin chief. Agca made similar allegations in a Rome court in 1986 as the main witness at the trial of three Turks and three Bulgarians on charges that they conspired with him to try to kill the Pope.

All six were acquitted on grounds of insufficient evidence.

million-strong party would be held to decide on the changes. (Reuters)

**Police lax in tackling crime:** A Swiss parliamentary commission of inquiry on Friday accused police and the federal prosecutor's office of laxity in tackling international crime, including the drugs trade and money laundering.

The commission also called for an urgent review of measures against illegal arms dealings, citing the example of a breach in an arms embargo against Libya and the purchase of Swiss planes by former Gestapo chief Klaus Barbie.

The 288-page report recommended that the role of federal prosecutor and police chief should no longer be vested in one person. (AP)

**IPU symposium concludes:** The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) symposium on participation of women in political process concluded on Saturday with the adoption of a text, which calls for mobilisation to ensure that average percentage of women parliamentarians in the world reaches at least 25 per cent by year 2000.

Ultimately, their representation should go up to 50 per cent, as against the current level of 13 per cent, according to a statement released on Friday. (Kuna)

**UN panel meeting ends:** The United Nations committee against torture concluded its third session on Friday after two weeks of deliberations and having examined reports from 11 countries.



## Victory for reforms

A group of Czech students celebrate the announcement of government's resignation. Earlier

thousands of people gathered in Wenceslas Square. (Reuters wirephoto)

## You can count on us, assures Mazowiecki

Katyn crime wounds remain unhealed, says Solidarity leader

MOSCOW, Nov 25, (AP): Polish Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki assured the Soviet Union yesterday that it could count on support from the East bloc's only non-communist-led government, and said Poland wants to close "difficult chapters of history."

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev warmly greeted the former Solidarity leader and said that relations with Poland were improving.

The election of Mazowiecki on Aug 24 ended more than 40 years of communist rule in Poland. On his first official visit to Moscow, he saluted the wisdom of Gorbachev's programme of economic reform, and "our and your freedom and solidarity."

"The changes which are taking place in our country do not alter the international obligations of Poland and nobody should see in them a threat. On the contrary, they contribute to the

stability of Europe and strengthen us as a reliable and solid partner," he said.

Later, at a Kremlin dinner after his first full day of talks with the Soviet leadership, Mazowiecki raised a painful issue that still hinders reconciliation between Poles and Soviets.

"For Poles, the Katyn crime remains a wound which has not healed," Mazowiecki said. "We want to close all difficult chapters of history. This is not only a matter for our alliance, but for a real reconciliation of our peoples which is necessary for us and for you."

More than 4,300 Polish officers were killed in the Katyn forest in World War II. The Soviet Union still maintains the men were murdered by the Nazis in 1941, but most Poles and Western historians believe the Soviet secret police murdered the officers in 1940.

Mazowiecki also brought up Katyn when he met President Mikhail Gorbachev for the first time Friday afternoon, his spokeswoman said.

Gorbachev grasped Mazowiecki's hand when they met and said greater contact would further improve relations with his government.

"Maybe somebody would be surprised that I want to wish you success," Gorbachev told Mazowiecki. "We are no less interested that your government and your nation has success."

"We, too, are very interested in the success of perestroika," replied Mazowiecki through a translator.

Gorbachev spoke to a small group of reporters in his Kremlin office before he received Mazowiecki.

"If you look back on our history, what is going on between our two countries is that there are new relations. I am sure this is for our mutual benefit," Gorbachev said. "Relations

between our peoples have changed for the better."

Mazowiecki said Poland will respect its alliance obligations, but that relations with the Soviet Union, long dominated by Moscow, must be based on reciprocity.

Polish government spokeswoman Malgorzata Niezabitowska said the Mazowiecki-Gorbachev meeting lasted about two hours.

Niezabitowska said the two sides had discussed economic issues, the dramatic changes in East Germany, and the US-Soviet summit.

The official Tass news agency said Gorbachev had expressed concern about events in East Germany. Both Poland and the Soviet Union have suffered from German aggression and appear concerned about the re-emergence of a unified Germany in the heart of Europe.

national party congress to bring in more reformers.

In Slovakia, party members were rebelling against the re-election of a third politburo member, Jozef Lenart, state television said.

Karel Urbanek, who replaced Milos Jakes as party leader in the overnight upheaval, told a meeting of the Prague party there was no time to lose.

The 48-year-old leader, bags of fatigue under his eyes testifying to the strain of events, praised the open criticism expressed at the meeting and said if it had come sooner the party would be in a better position.

## Communist rulers plunge into crisis

Prague politburo members forced to quit

PRAGUE, Nov 25, (Reuters): Czechoslovakia's communist rulers plunged deeper into crisis today.

Two leading members of a newly formed politburo were forced to quit as hundreds of thousands of people staged a mass protest for the ninth successive day.

Miroslav Stepan and Miroslav Zavadil resigned only hours after being re-elected to the ruling politburo at a 16-hour central committee meeting ending in the early morning hours, state radio reported.

The Prague city party organisation, which Stepan heads, forced them to quit by condemning their re-election and calling for an emergency

"We must not be afraid to say: 'I am communists,'" declared Urbanek, a grey-haired figure in a grey suit.

At a Prague parade ground, more than 300,000 people massed in the biggest popular show of strength in Czechoslovakia's 71-year history, heard playwright Vaclav Havel, a leading opposition figure, denounce the new politburo.

"We are now receiving verified reports that the new leadership of the party is a trick and that the instruments of power are being taken over by neo-Stalinists," he said. "These people may be dangerous but also incompetent."

Alexander Dubcek, whose "Prague Spring" reform movement was crushed by a Soviet-led invasion in 1968, dismissed the shuffle of the politburo as a manoeuvre.

The demonstration was broadcast by state television in its entirety. The television studios were occupied by police on Thursday, according to the opposition, and the coverage of the rally indicated that the vital medium had switched sides.

Both Havel and Dubcek appealed for support for Prime Minister Ladislav Adamec, among seven people dropped from the politburo overnight.

They were apparently suggesting that Adamec should replace Urbanek as party chief and the huge crowd responded by chanting "long live Adamec."

Adamec resigned from the politburo and as prime minister in protest against the way the new leadership was chosen, according to Saska Vondra, a spokesman for the Charter 77 human rights movement.

Adamec began limited talks with the Civic Forum opposition group last week but they were stopped without explanation as the central committee prepared for its meeting.

"Full truth must come as soon as possible," Dubcek said to loud cheers.

He was speaking a day after he returned to Prague in triumph as the men who ousted him following the 1968 invasion met in crisis.

Dubcek, 68 on Monday rejected the government's criticism that political demands should not be made at independent demonstrations.

"They say that the street should not become involved in politics and I say the street has always been involved in politics in this country," Dubcek proclaimed.

At an historic televised Mass, the Roman Catholic primate Cardinal Frantisek Tomasek called on citizens to "combine courage and wisdom to prevent violence in these days."

"Nobody should stand aside in these important moments for the nation," he said.

Tomasek, 90, has enormous moral authority and together with Dubcek and Havel is the most important symbol for change.

The Western press reacted with rousing headlines praising the changes in Czechoslovakia's Communist Party leadership and hailed the re-emergence of Dubcek.

"The iron curtain is not cracked, but shattered into a thousand pieces. A new chapter in Europe's history has begun," declared Britain's Daily Telegraph newspaper, while the popular tabloid Today summed up events with the headline: "Czech mate."



Urbanek quick rise

## Czechs rejoice over changes

Dubcek and Havel differ

PRAGUE, Nov 25, (AP): Die-hard armies of five Warsaw Pact countries in August 1968, after the Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev claimed counter-revolution threatened socialism in Czechoslovakia.

"I used to pass myself for a socialist, but I have stopped using this word 15 years ago," Havel countered.

"This word completely lost its meaning in the Czech language," he said. "It became a magic spell with which the bureaucratic power would protect itself."

For 13 years Havel was persecuted as a leader of underground dissent. He spent four years in prison and the rest of his time under police surveillance.

"This can be different in other countries. But I do not use the word (socialism) anymore. What I want is social justice, there are many examples to learn from," Havel explained.

"We are all tired and exhausted and we hope the society will take away this heavy load as soon as possible," said Igor Chum, a pony-tailed representative of the students' strike committee, speaking in the theatre.

## Row over Auschwitz convent

## Glomp sued for libel

WARSAW, Nov 25, (AP): A US Rabbi filed papers in a Polish court yesterday charging Cardinal Jozef Glomp with slander and defamation for comments the prelate made about a protest at a Roman Catholic convent at the Auschwitz concentration camp, attorneys said.

Joseph Litner, a lawyer representing Rabbi Avraham Weiss of the Hebrew Institute of New York, said he filed a criminal complaint at the regional court of Czesochowa.

In a telephone interview, Weiss said that the Polish primate slandered him after the Rabbi and six students protested at the convent on July 14. Weiss and other Jews consider the convent an intrusion at a site where millions of Jews were killed by Nazis during World War II.

About half the Auschwitz victims, some 2.5 million people, were Jews.



Gorbachev (right) speaks with Mazowiecki (left) prior to their meeting in Moscow on Nov 24. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Urbanek becomes chief in 5 years

PRAGUE, Nov 25, (Reuters): Czechoslovak Communist Party leader Karel Urbanek, who succeeded secretary-general Milos Jakes at a crisis meeting on the country's mounting unrest yesterday, shot from provincial obscurity to the summit of power in mere five years.

Urbanek, 48, rose from the post of party secretary in the town of Brno in central Czechoslovakia in 1984 to become a member of the decision-making central committee in 1986 and joined the party's ruling politburo in 1989.

Only a year later, he was appointed secretary-general after a tidal wave of street protests for democracy forced Jakes and the entire politburo to resign en masse.

Like former reformist leader Alexander Dubcek, whose "Prague Spring" reforms were crushed by the 1968 Soviet-led invasion, Urbanek rose from the ranks of obscure apparatchiks to take over the party at a relatively young age.

On assuming power, Urbanek told the central committee: "In a complex approach to restructuring, the current events clearly underline the need for faster progress of political reforms."

But in a further remark littered with jargon from the old socialist lexicon, he said:

"We must act so that we prove convincingly to the working class, co-operative farmers, intelligentsia and all citizens the sincerity of the party's efforts for restructuring and democratisation in the economic and social spheres."

While little is known about his real political intentions, Western analysts believe he enjoys the trust of orthodox senior communists and they note that Urbanek recently has made a series of headline statements against dissent.

In an article in the Communist Party weekly journal Tribuna in March, Urbanek accused "domestic enemies" in the Charter 77 human rights movement and other independent groups of trying to foment confrontation.

He said leading dissidents, including playwright Vaclav Havel, are not in the least concerned about democracy, freedom, the environment, dialogue on the platform of socialism, but their aim is to return to capitalism, with all the consequences this would have for our country," he said.

"Therefore, one must not make concessions to them," Urbanek said.

By choosing a relative unknown, the party seemed to be trying to restore its credibility after the country turned against it on the streets for resisting Soviet-style reforms, a Western analyst said.

"Urbanek, by dint of his age, is untainted by the events that crushed Dubcek's Prague spring reforms in 1968, and he may stand a chance of salvaging the party's reputation," he said.



## 200,000 dump communists

### Wall will remain: Krenz

EAST BERLIN, Nov 25, (Agencies): One in 10 East German communists have quit the party in the past two months and a senior member suggested the party might have to change its name to overcome its ossified image.

Meanwhile, the clamour for a settling of accounts with deposed communist bosses grew.

The party's youth daily demanded a public confession from Guenter Mittag, a former member of the Politburo expelled from the party and under investigation of misuse and other suspected of wrongdoing.

A central committee official said 200,000 of the 2.3 million members of the party had resigned since the end of September as huge pro-democracy demonstrations forced the party onto a path of reform after 40 years of Stalinism.

"About 70 per cent were workers," the official, Heinz Mirsch, told the party daily Neues Deutschland.

The East German party has always touted itself as being in the vanguard of the working class.

#### Alarm

Neues Deutschland said the news was no surprise but deepened alarm among those still in the party that it could be about to collapse under the strain of reform and investigations into abuses of power and corruption.

Roland Wotzel, the Leipzig district first secretary, told party members in East Germany's second biggest city that the party needed "a new programme, new charter and maybe even a new name" if it was to lose its reputation for inflexibility.

"In any case we need a total renewal as a socialist people's party. We must ... fight for a majority, take part in coalitions or (even) work in the opposition," Wotzel said.

Hungary's communists changed their name to the socialist party in early October to shore up their sagging image in the run-up to free elections scheduled for the first half of 1990.

But analysts believe a name switch would not be enough to rescue the East German party and feed it might split openly into orthodox, reformist and Social Democratic factions at an emergency congress next month.

Egon Krenz, the reformist party chief who ousted elderly hardliner Erich Honecker last month, has reversed decades of repressive rule by opening the borders for travel, unsmuzzling the media and promising free elections.

But a poll released yesterday showed only 9.6 per cent of East Germans backed Krenz and 31 per cent supported the party as a whole.

In another of a string of public appearances aimed at narrowing the divide between party leaders and the people, Krenz strolled through central Leipzig today shaking hands and inquiring about local problems.

#### Misery

"The people strode up to him, seeking information," the official news agency ADN reported. It said Krenz was asked how he could "remedy the desolate situation of the economy" and whether "those guilty for this misery will be punished."

In an interview with Neues Deutschland, Werner Eberlein, the Politburo member probing corruption in the party, said all those guilty of abusing power and privileges would face punishment, regardless of their previous seniority.

Eberlein's remarks suggested that Mittag, blamed for hobbling East Germany's economy with

bureaucracy before being dumped from the Politburo in October, would not be the only former senior official to be ousted.

"A series of party investigations are under way and a full report will be made at the special congress in December," Eberlein told the newspaper.

East Germany's main opposition group, New Forum, has not yet decided whether to take part in all-party talks of the country's political future, Ingrid Koeppe, a New Forum spokeswoman, told the government-owned Berliner Zeitung newspaper.

"When we receive an invitation, we shall look at the conditions for these talks, the main issues and the groups attending before we come to a decision," Koeppe said.

The Communist Party's ruling Politburo did not propose a date for the talks and did not specify which opposition groups it had in mind.

The group, which has some 200,000 supporters, was branded as subversive under the headline rule of Honecker and banned days after it was founded.

But earlier this month the Interior Ministry said it would consider its application for official recognition.

"Now we've got three months to debate and draw up a party programme," Koeppe said. "After they've been examined, we expect that New Forum will receive official recognition."

East Germany's official press today exposed the exclusive privileges enjoyed by former Communist Party leaders and deplored the damage done to socialism.

The newspaper of the National Democrats, a small party allied to the communists, lambasted former trade union chief Harry Tisch and the 100-hectare (250 acre) hunting estate reserved for his private use until his dismissal this month.

"A central-heated hunting lodge, naturally with cable television awaited the illustrious guest Tisch," the national Zeitung Daily said.

In an interview in today's Finanzwirtschaft, Krenz also said his country's planned elections were unlikely to take place before the end of 1990.

Asked about the future of communist rule in East Germany, Krenz said: "This land is a socialist country and will remain a socialist country."

"What we plan is not a path between socialism and capitalism but a path of real socialism." Krenz, who helped launch East Germany's reforms since becoming party leader last month, told the newspaper that East Germany could learn from capitalism. But he attacked West Germany for what he said were its efforts to force East Germany into market-oriented reforms in exchange for aid.

"I cannot imagine East Germany as a capitalist country," Krenz said.

He said that despite the opening of East Germany's western borders two weeks ago, the Berlin Wall would stay to prevent unity between the two German states.

Nine leading East German authors were readmitted to the official writers' association 10 years after being expelled for works then considered offensive by Communist authorities, an East German newspaper reported.

Nearly 3,000 East Germans have moved to West Germany in the past two days, officials said yesterday, suggesting that many remain doubtful about chances for economic and political reforms at home.

## Boat people fight

### Five wounded

HONG KONG, Nov 25, (AP): Several hundred Vietnamese boat people armed with stones and homemade spears battled inside a detention centre this morning until police fired more than 20 rounds of tear-gas to restore order, police reported.

Four Vietnamese were injured, including a man who was hospitalised in fair condition with stab wounds to the chest. A police officer was also slightly injured but required no treatment.

The fight at the Shek Kong Detention Centre between rival groups from two different provinces in Vietnam broke out at 2 am local time after a man was attacked, police said. The Vietnamese tore down a 17-foot (five-metre) tall fence that separated the two groups during the early morning melee.

Besides throwing stones at each other, the boat people also fought with water pipes and iron rods that had been sharpened, police said.

Order was restored by 4.30 am local time after police fired the tear-gas.

A number of fights have broken out in detention centres in the past several months. All were quickly brought under control by the police.

More than 55,000 Vietnamese boat people are languishing in Hong Kong camps after fleeing their homeland, waiting to be repatriated or resettled.

Tens of thousands of these Vietnamese are expected to be denied refugee status and be repatriated. Tension in the camps has increased in recent months with the possibility of a programme of forced repatriation to Vietnam.

## Most violent election in Indian history

### New balloting ordered in 930 polling stations

(Continued from Page 1)

government. The survey said the five-party National Front opposition alliance would have about the same number of seats as Congress but could not form a government without the support of two parties on the right and left which detest each other.

"This exit poll suggests that when the results come in during the next 2-3 days, for the first time in its history India will have a 'hung' parliament with no single party or front having a clear majority," it said.

Also today, opposition leader Vishwanath Pratap Singh, considered the favourite to replace Rajiv, said he was reluctant to become prime minister should his five-party coalition win.

"It is political suicide to depend too much on an individual," Singh said in an interview. "So I have decided not to accept any proposal to become the prime minister."

Violence continued today when campaign workers in Calcutta, the capital of West Bengal, battled with bombs and bricks. One polling agent was killed and dozens were injured. Police fired into the air and used tear-gas to disperse the crowds.

Activists also attacked the house of a government official in Calcutta but he escaped unharm.

Two other people were killed in campaign-related violence, one in southern Andhra Pradesh and the other in southern Tamil Nadu.

The elections, which end tomorrow and will determine whether Rajiv remains in power or falls victim to a newly energized and united opposition, are shaping up as the most violent in India's history.

At least 141 people have been killed since the election was announced in mid-October, surpassing the 38 people who died during the December 1984 election that propelled Rajiv to power two months after the assassination of his mother, prime minister Indira Gandhi.



Sisters of the Missionaries of Charity of Mother Teresa queue up to cast their votes Nov 24. (Reuters wirephoto)

Massive security was being prepared for tomorrow's poll in tiny Sikkim, the northern state of Punjab where Sikh separatists have killed more than 1,650 people this year, and in eastern Bihar state where violence between Hindus and Muslims has left at least 300 people dead in the past six weeks.

First election results are expected tomorrow night after polls close.

Since the voting started, both the Congress Party and opposition National Front coalition have traded charges of voter intimidation and ballot fraud.

Chief Election Commissioner R. V. S. Peri Sastri said investigations in Rajiv's district found evidence of vote-rigging in 50 per cent of polling places checked.

The Congress Party has denied it rigged votes in Amethi, the constituency where Rajiv seeks re-election and where senior

opposition leader Sanjay Singh was shot in the stomach during a clash with Congress workers during voting on Wednesday. His condition was stable today.

Peri Sastri said he hoped a decision would be made on holding another poll in Amethi by tomorrow morning when counting is to begin.

Villagers there issued "angry and grievous complaints against the voting," he said.

New balloting already has been ordered in 930 of the country's 590,000 polling stations because of fraud.

But Peri Sastri said the decision on Amethi had wider implications. "Here is an allegation which will damage not merely an individual but an institution, the institution is the prime ministership," he said.

Senior Congress (I) Party leaders, appearing at a New Delhi news conference, blamed

the National Front and other opposition parties for instigating the bloodshed and rigging.

Ghulam Nabi Azad, a party general secretary, contended that to divert attention from its activities, the opposition was charging that Congress (I) Party activists and police cast phony ballots for Rajiv during polling on Wednesday in Amethi, 310 miles (500 km) southeast of New Delhi in Uttar Pradesh state.

"It is all malicious and false propaganda," Azad said. "The concocted story which the opposition leaders are presenting regarding Amethi is to cover up their misdeeds they have done."

National Front spokesman P. Upendra said that unless complete repolling in Amethi was authorised, the opposition would take steps to block the counting of ballots around the country.

"We are by no means going to

allow counting to start unless repoll takes place in entire Amethi as what has taken place there is nothing but the murder of democracy," he told reporters.

Upendra, who called on the Election Commission to render an immediate decision, did not elaborate on how the opposition would prevent ballot counting, but added 8,000 people were "already deployed" in Uttar Pradesh to halt tabulation.

Police said a bomb killed at least one person and injured 10 others in a lumber market in Batala, 250 miles (400 km) north of New Delhi, in Punjab, one of the three states scheduled to hold voting tomorrow.

Deputy inspector-general of police Rama Krishnan blamed the blast on Sikh separatists, saying they wanted to reduce voter turnout to foil the chances of the Congress (I) Party candidate expected to win the constituency.

## Gorby cool to Romania

### Ceausescu receives telegram

MOSCOW, Nov 25, (Agencies): Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev has sent a relatively cool telegram to Romanian leader Nicolai Ceausescu congratulating him on his re-election at a Communist Party conference in Bucharest.

The telegram, published in today's edition of the Communist Party newspaper Pravda,

addressed the Romanian leader as "esteemed comrade Ceausescu."

It read: "Please accept congratulations on the occasion of your re-election to the post of General Secretary of the Romanian Communist Party."

Ceausescu, an old-style communist who was re-elected for another five-year term, has fir-

mly set himself against following other East Bloc states along the path of reform.

Gorbachev also wished Romanian communists success in "resolving the tasks of (Romania's) economic development, peace and the well-being of the Romanian people."

The message contrasted sharply with that sent by China's Communist Party leader Jiang Zemin, who said the Beijing leadership "heartily wish that the Romanian Communist Party and people, under your leadership, would continue to march forward along the socialist road."

It was also markedly different from Gorbachev's congratulations sent to East German leader Egon Krenz, addressed as "dear comrade" on his election last month.

That telegram was sent both personally and on behalf of the central committee and said Soviet people "know how important interaction between the Soviet Union and the GDR is for the stability of Europe, for socialism and peace."

The 14th Romanian Communist Party Congress reached its expected conclusion yesterday with the reappointment of Ceausescu as party general secretary and reaffirmed support for his opposition to reform.

The congress theoretically had the power to reject Ceausescu, but his continued role as leader was a foregone conclusion. He was the only official candidate.

Delegates rose, cheering and chanting Ceausescu's name and the initials of the Romanian Communist Party, at the announcement of his re-election. Such staged displays of adulation have marked the congress since it opened on Monday.

Meanwhile, the Agence France Press news agency quoted Ceausescu as urging annulment of all provisions of the 1938 pact between the Soviet Union and Nazi Germany.

### Aiding cause of peace

## Malta hopes to boost prosperity

VALLETTA, Malta, Nov 25, (AP): This young nation hewn from a rocky Mediterranean archipelago hopes to use its fleeting moment at superpower centre stage to boost its own prosperity as well as help the cause of peace.

"We, as the Americans would say, are about to play the biggest and most important ball game of our times," says government tourism official Michael Refalo, anticipating next weekend's summit talks between US President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev aboard ships in Maltese waters.

"I will go so far as to say that much of our future prospects ... depend on the image which we portray of ourselves and project during these momentous days," Refalo said.

The potential for a public relations bonanza is obvious. Most of the 2,000 reporters expected to cover the summit will not get to the US and Soviet warships where Bush and Gorbachev will hold their talks. They will be left behind on land, with time to discover Malta.

Along with the opportunity for Malta, comes a potential for difficulties.

#### Invited

The opposition Socialist Party, whose relations with the governing Nationalist Party are always strained and sometimes violent, has scheduled an anti-nuclear demonstration during the summit and invited a delegation from Moammar Khaddafi, a foe of the United States, has said he opposes the summit meetings on foreign warships in the Mediterranean between Italy and Libya, is off the beaten path for superpower diplomacy, and both visiting presidents plan to meet with Prime Minister Edward Fenech Adami.

Bush will be the first US

President to visit since Franklin D. Roosevelt stopped here 44 years ago en route to a World War II summit in Yalta in the Soviet Union. Gorbachev's visit will be the first by a Soviet leader.

Malta's location has made it desirable to a long list of conquerors stretching back 2,000 years and including the Phoenicians, Carthaginians and Romans. Its other foreign rulers have included the Spanish, the crusading knights of Malta, Napoleon and finally the British.

The summit comes as Malta, which became independent from Britain 25 years ago, is beginning a new push for industry and tourism by promoting itself as an international conference centre.

The summit also comes at a time when the island is beginning a drive to become "the Switzerland of the Mediterranean" as a financial and trading centre, said Joseph Fenech, the government minister responsible for offshore banking and maritime affairs.

"We feel that if Malta is good both for Bush and Gorbachev, it is good for all prospective investors with whom together we shall build the success of our future as a maritime state and a financial and trading centre," he said.

The guided missile cruiser USS Belknap and the Soviet missile cruiser Slava are expected to anchor in Marsaxlokk Bay, within sight of fishing villages on the eastern end of the island and about 220 miles (354 kilometre) north of Tripoli, Libya.

There are some worries among local officials about Malta's own volatile brand of politics and about the reaction of Libya. Opposition leader Karmenu Mifsud Bonnici travelled to Libya in mid-November for meetings with Khaddafi. When he returned, Bonnici called for Gorbachev and Bush to include a discussion of Mediterranean region tension on their agenda.



Summit ship on way

The Soviet missile cruiser Slava, which will co-host next week's superpower summit in the Mediterranean, passed through Turkey's Bosphorus waterway today heading for Malta.

The huge warship was escorted by the Soviet patrol ship Pytlivi as it passed through Istanbul, which straddles the Bosphorus, shortly after 8 am (0600 GMT).

The Slava sailed from its home port of Sevastopol on the Black Sea on Friday, and after transiting the Bosphorus must pass the Sea of Marmara, the Dardanelles and the Aegean Sea before reaching the Mediterranean. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Pakistan told to prepare for a reduction in future US aid due to departure of Soviets from Kabul

ISLAMABAD, Nov 25, (UPI): Sidney Sobers, a former diplomat who served at the US embassy in Pakistan as charge d'affaires between the crucial 1969-73 period warned on Thursday that Islamabad should prepare for a reduction in Washington's aid over the coming years.

Briefing a group of newsmen at the residence of US Ambassador to Pakistan, Robert Oakley, Sobers said the high level of aid which Pakistan received in the immediate past was linked to the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan.

Now that Soviet troops are no more in Afghanis-

tan, Sobers implied, US aid to Pakistan would level off in the coming years. Sobers conceded that the civil war was still going on in Afghanistan and Pakistan was still burdened with three million Afghan refugees.

Washington will always have a high interest in Pakistan, he said, "and those who do not recognise this do not have the will to do so."

Answering a question Sobers said the Soviet Union was supplying arms worth \$250 million every month to Kabul and expressed his concern over the matter.

However, he pointed out that the first priority of the United States was to see the Soviet troops leave Afghanistan and now that they have left that country "we have other priorities like balancing the budget and reducing the deficits."

"It is very hard to explain to the American public and justify aid appropriations," he said.

According to Sobers the South Asia region is expected to go through an endemic change and not a revolutionary change.

He said neither the Soviet Union nor the United States wished to see a continuation of conflicts in

this region and the two superpowers could establish normal relations both with India and Pakistan at the same time.

The Soviets "are not interested in the instability in the region. The two superpowers have the same interests in this regard," he said.

Sobers defended India's right to acquire arms saying: "It is the right of every country to decide about how it wants to spend its resources. We want you (Pakistan) to spend more on social sectors instead of on defence but we cannot do that. It would amount to interference."

## Lanka troops repel attack

COLOMBO, Nov 25, (AP): Government troops repelled an attack by Sinhalese radicals on a military camp near Colombo, killing five guerrillas, military officials said today.

At least 15 guerrillas took part in yesterday's attack on the Alawewa military camp in Gampaha district, 25 kms (15 miles) northeast of Colombo, the officials said.

The troops did not suffer any casualties, said the officials, who were not identified under briefing rules.

Meanwhile, 12 people were killed during the past 24 hours in the continuing violence in the north and south of the country, the officials said.

#### Death toll

Four more radicals were shot to death by soldiers in separate incidents in southern and central Sri Lanka, the officials said. The guerrillas killed a Sinhalese civilian, they said.

The militias, from the ultranationalist People's Liberation Front, have been waging a two-year campaign of assassinations and terror to topple the government.

More than 6,000 people have been killed in the Sinhalese violence, which began after the government's 1987 peace overtures to Tamil separatists in the northeast.

Uneasy peace prevailed in the eastern town of Kalmunai today but refugees who fled the area after clashes between pro-Indian Tamil rebels and Sri Lankan troops last week, are refusing to go back to their homes, residents and officials said.

#### Firing

The military officials in Colombo said, there had been no major attack on Sri Lankan troops, in the predominantly Muslim Kalmunai in the eastern Ampara district, by the controversial Tamil National Army (TNA) since Thursday night, but intermittent small arms fire was continuing. There were no casualties reported from both sides, the officials said.

All airports here have been instructed to arrest Somawansa Amerasinghe, the most wanted terrorist in Sri Lanka, according to security sources.

The twenty eight-year-old man is a powerful member of the People's Liberation Front which he joined in 1980 when was a student. During a short time, Amerasinghe rose up to be a powerful member of the politbureau.

Out of the nine members of the politbureau, six have been killed by security forces and one, the military commander of the PLF R. M. Ananda alias Adhikari is in detention. He has been interrogated by the security forces to gather information regarding the PLF activities.

#### Refusal

Amerasinghe, who comes from a very affluent family, has political and family connections with the present government and some members of Marxist parties. According to security sources, he may either try to leave the country or reactivate party activities.

Security sources also stated that Amerasinghe represented the PLF at talks held under the chairmanship of Mrs Sirima Bandaranaike, head of Sri Lanka Freedom Party and leader of the opposition.

Meanwhile Chief Minister of provincial council of the north and east, Vartharajah Perumal had refused to attend any conferences summoned by the Sri Lankan government on the security situation in the north and east of Sri Lanka.

Instead, governor of the northeast provincial council, Lieutenant General Nalin Senewiratne, former commander of the Sri Lankan army, has been requested by the Ministry of Defence to brief the government on the situation.

The Tamil National Army (TNA) has been attacking the Kalmunai army detachment based in the eastern province with motors from a distance at various times for the last four days, according to security sources.



# Airplane phone service to be provided soon

## KD 15,000-airborne station purchased

THE director of the International telecommunication department at Kuwait's Ministry of Communication, Adel Al Ibrahim said that a new telephone service for receiving calls from aircraft will be introduced.

In an interview with a local daily, he said

that aircraft passengers will be able to make telephone calls to people on the ground and vice versa.

He said that the service will be available shortly, adding that some international airline had already introduced this service for its passengers.

Speaking of the Um Al-Aish earth station via satellite, he said that the capacity of the station was 400 lines, the capacity of the second Um Al-Aish station was 288 lines and the third one had 3,896 lines in addition 612 lines were provided by Arab-sat 60 lines by the mobile station and the

airborne station will provide one line. He said that the ministry had recently purchased an airborne station that cost about KD 15,000 with accessories.

He said that the first station of Um Al-Aish had been provided with the latest equipment to meet any exigency.

## PLO meeting status may be elevated: UK envoy

KUWAIT, Nov 25, (Kuna): British Ambassador to Kuwait Peter Hinchcliffe was quoted here today as saying that Britain might elevate Palestine Liberation Organisation's meeting status with British officials.

"It is probable that the level of meeting between the two sides could be elevated if these meetings serve the peace process," Ambassador Hinchcliffe told a local daily in an interview.

He did not elaborate further, but said several meetings took place between Palestinian and British officials topped by the Arafat-Walgrave meeting.

Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and former state minister for foreign affairs William Walgrave met in January of this year in Tunisia and thoroughly examined each other's views on a Middle East peace.

### Baker Plan

Replying to a question on Britain's stand toward the Baker Plan, Hinchcliffe said any decisions in the occupied territories must be part of an overall process leading to a settlement for the Arab-Israeli conflict and should be based on UN Resolution 242 and on a land-for-peace principle.

Speaking on another topic, the ambassador welcomed the upcoming visit to Britain of His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem.

"We look forward with happiness to the visit of Sheikh Saad next year," Hinchcliffe told the paper.

On the situation in the Gulf region, he said that Britain "awaits the time the ceasefire between Iran and Iraq leads to a peaceful and stable settlement in the region."

"We are still working with the Security Council and with other sides to find a way for implementing Resolution 598 ... we also unequivocally support the mission by the UN special envoy Jan Eliasson," Hinchcliffe said.



Kisr training course

Minister of State for Municipal Affairs, Mohammad Al Refai patronised the graduation of 165 municipality employees who underwent a training course at the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research. Director-General of Kisr, Dr Ahmad Al Jassar and other officials from Kisr and Kuwait Municipality attended the function. Picture shows Refai and Jassar handing certificate to a graduate.

## Scholarship law being revised

### New Shuwaikh complex for PAAET

THE Minister of Higher Education, Dr Ali Al Shamlan, said that the ministry had completed a draft law for higher education.

It was now revising the law in the light of comments received by various authorities.

He added that the ministry also prepared a new draft law for scholarships which was now being revised in the light of comments of cultural offices in some Kuwaiti embassies and other relevant authorities.

The ministry has completed its structure which is being carried out gradually.

It set up a specialised team to prepare the general plan of the ministry and the team is expected to complete its work next month, he said.

The consultative committee at the ministry will study the suggested plan and have its comments on it.

Shamlan added that the scholarships department of the Education Ministry had been annexed to the Ministry of Higher Education after annexing Kuwait University and the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET).

Shamlan pointed out that this ministry was seeking to achieve many projects, specially the organisation of higher education, and development of sci-

tific research at Kuwait University and PAAET and to use these researches to serve development plans.

He added that the ministry was co-ordinating with the Information Ministry to attach the Higher Institute for Music Arts and Higher Institute for Theatrical Arts to the Ministry of Higher Education. They are now run by the Information Ministry.

He said that the ministry was now altering buildings of Kuwait University to make them permanent premises for ministry's institutions.

There was another project to build a comprehensive campus for Kuwait University (University City) to accommodate the increasing number of students.

The authorities had selected Shidadiya area as the suggested site of the project. The designs of the project will be made later. The project is planned to be carried out in the second half of the 1990s, he said.

He added that the ministry has a plan to maintain the present faculty building and training centres of PAAET. It also has a plan to build a comprehensive complex for faculties and centres of the authority at the site of the old industrial college in Shuwaikh.

He said that graduates of Kuwait University and PAAET now occupied higher posts in ministries and government establishments.

## Participation of nationals in economy a necessity

A CONFERENCE on manpower management was organised by the Administration Development Institute of the United Arab Emirates.

It included lectures on experiments conducted by Kuwait, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia on nationalisation of jobs. A Gulf experiment in the training field and its problems, and the future of training from an administrative point of view, was also discussed.

Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) states, a number of Arab countries and some concerned European authorities took part in the conference which aimed at exchanging knowledge and expertise connected with managing and developing manpower. The conference also reviewed the successful factors which ensured accomplishing the nationalisation of public jobs.

### Participation

The undersecretary of the Arab Planning Institute in Kuwait, Mohammed Al Awadi, delivered a lecture at the conference on manpower in the Gulf area and manpower requirements.

He said that it was possible to upgrade the percentage of national manpower by giving individuals the opportunity to participate in the economic activities of the country. He pointed out that training and education were important to achieve this.

He explained that in order to prevent the expansion of the current manpower imbalance, GCC states should concentrate on the expansion of specialities in which Gulf states faced a shortage.

According to manpower statistics, Awadi indicated that Saudi dentists were only 5.3 per cent of all dentists in Saudi Arabia in 1983.

In mathematics and computer jobs, they formed only 11.8 per cent from the professional group of 1983.

# Drug cases on the decline: Faris

## Harsh penalties deter smugglers

THE new law on drugs, with its death penalty for drug traffickers and dealers resisting arrest has strengthened the anti-drug programme, according to the director of the General Department of Criminal Evidence, Col. Abdullah Al Faris.

He told a local daily that anti-narcotic operations carried out last year led to the seizure of nine million drug pills, 193 kilograms of hashish, five kilograms of heroin and nine kilograms of opium.

Kuwait was very active in combating drugs, whether by laying down firm legislation with severe penalties or by providing its security forces with the latest technologies and information for combating the spread of narcotics and the related trade, Faris said.

He added that smuggling operations were always on the increase because drug dealers were always looking for places where drugs were in high demand.

He described crimes committed by drug addicts as extremely dangerous to society, adding that the spread of drugs led to the destruction of the individual, family and society. The responsibility for this fell on the plant grower, producer, smuggler, dealer, pusher and user.

He stressed the importance of the role played by security bodies, adding that their excellent performance had resulted in reducing the drug menace in Kuwait. He said the security men were able to discover new methods used by drug traffickers to smuggle contraband into the country.

Faris pointed out that the strategic location of Kuwait had lured drug traders to use it as a transit passage for their illegal business, and the vigilance of the

security organs in all the country's air, land and sea exits had been an insurmountable obstacle to the illegal business run by drug rings.

He said the Kuwait had been endeavouring to continually reinforce its counter-narcotic activities and measures and a co-operation protocol had been signed to this effect with the Republic of Turkey, whereby bilateral co-operation was stepped up between the two countries to thwart all narcotic activities.

### Penalties

The Kuwait Penal Code state provided for the death penalty to drug smugglers who kill their arresting security officers in a bid to escape from justice, and those who do not resist arrest get 15 years of penal servitude, while the judicial treatment of drug users was compatible with circumstances of each case, Faris said.

He added that the steady rise in the rate of crimes perpetrated by juveniles was the result of the civilisational and economic boom which was associated with a marked disregard of local traditions and moral values, which had had very a strong negative effect in certain cases on the family as the smallest component unit of society.

He further said that the result was a deterioration in family ties, fathers neglecting their responsibilities in hot pursuit of their personal business, and mothers leaving their children to the care of housemaids to attend to her work, and the children enjoying a dangerous and unlimited amount of uncalculated freedom, which paved the way for them to slip away from parental guidance.

Faris also said that this applied to families under normal circum-

stances, whereas there were many families threatened by other factors, such as divorce, death of either or both parents, frequent family problems, constant tense atmosphere and others, which speeded up the child's proneness to delinquency and created the right atmosphere for rise of psychological problems and urges for vents, which unfortunately always found expression in the wrong means.

He stressed the need for urgent reconsideration of the juvenile law which had been in force for over six years and had had difficulties of application, which could reflect negatively on the psychology of the juvenile.

He also stressed the important role of the police force in combating juvenile crime, whether before or after the issue of the juvenile law, and that the Juvenile Police Department had been actively busy over the past six years, handling cases far exceeding its available capabilities.

### Minors

The department handled as many as 2200 cases on an annual basis, involving 3000 minors, this is not to mention the police activities involved in tracking down and remanding reformatory escapes, arresting minors prone to delinquency, transferring arrested juveniles or referring them to the general prosecution, given its limited possibilities, Faris said.

He added that the defendant is considered innocent until proven guilty and therefore it was absolutely far from the truth that the department would extract confessions from suspects by force, but it so happens that some suspects would inflict injuries on themselves to mislead the investigative authorities into believing that they were forced to make confessions.

## More than 40 projects in Kuwait

THE director of the special projects department at the Public Works Ministry, Talal Al Othman said that his department was supervising more than 40 projects.

He added that the department was established to organize, supervise and carry out buildings of a special nature. All of these projects were designed by consultants offices.

He added that most significant project supervised by the department was the Bayan Palace Project (first stage) and car park No. 109 at Kuwait University in Khaldiya area.

He added that his department was now supervising the second stage of the Bayan Palace Project, the Crown Prince's Office, the Crown Prince's Office, the Ministry of the Council of Ministers, building of the Public Works Ministry, building of the Ministry of Electricity and Water, building of the National Centre for Computer and Microfilm, premises of administration and library of Kuwait University and the new premises of the Auditing Bureau.

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## Four new libraries to open in February

THE director of the libraries department at the Ministry of Education, Abdul Aziz Al Tamar, said that the unified automatic central index project for school and public libraries was considered to be one of the most important new projects and was considered one of the biggest accomplishments in Kuwait's libraries.

Interviewed by a local daily, he added that four new public libraries will be opened during the next National Day celebrations of Kuwait.

He said the total current number of school libraries was 572, and a total of 21 public libraries.

He pointed out that two new projects will be implemented soon to facilitate the process of borrowing books. The two projects include the permanent public libraries members project and the book friend groups project.

He stressed that school libraries function actively from the first day of the academic year.

He pointed out that the staff of school libraries totalled 817 employees, with a total of 64 employees at public libraries.

Speaking on the most important activities carried out by the libraries department, he said that the department had previously issued a large number of publications on different occasions.



Costume extravaganza

An Indian costume extravaganza entitled, 'India in All Her Splendid Costumes' was presented by Mrs Prasanna Raj Kumar and Mrs Radhika Malini on November 17 at the Indian Arts Circle. Although the costumes of India have been presented on many a stage, this one was perhaps the most evocative of all. Young girls moved around with natural grace to the accompaniment of Indian classical music. A fabulous tableau towards the end of the show showed off the costumes of India in their infinite variety.

## Voluntary social work helps society grow: Nasser

RIYADH, Nov 25, (Kuna): Kuwait's Social Affairs and Labour Minister Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmed said today that social work is inseparable from prevalent values in societies.

In a speech opening the third week for social work in the Arab Gulf countries, Sheikh Nasser said that voluntary social endeavour signals degree of the societies growth.

He stressed that the essence of development process was the human factor and underlined that active human participation is only feasible through affirming belonging, allegiance and collective feeling of the masses.

Sheikh Nasser, who is heading the event, said that the past three decades have witnessed introduction of several material changes in Gulf societies.

The minister, who started his

speech by conveying greetings of HH the Amir and HH the Crown Prince and Premier HH the Amir and their wishes of success to the conferees, said, "Our role in the social work sector is not limited to preparing material plans only but rather extends to dealing with social values to foster the positive ones and realize nature of changes, their impact and means of inter-acting with them."

In conclusion, Sheikh Nasser called for serious and scientific action to confront difficulties and ensure a dignified life for citizens.

In a statement to Kuna before his departure, Sheikh Nasser said the celebration taking place in Riyadh is a good occasion to transfer its activities from one Arab Gulf state to another.

Sheikh Nasser thanked HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber

Al Ahmed Al Sabah and the Crown Prince and Premier HH Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah for their directions that enhanced Arab labour in the Gulf.

Expressing hope that today's celebrations will be a success, Sheikh Nasser said that they benefited from experiences of the last two Arabian Gulf weeks, adding that the celebrations will be even-

## Utilisation of information vital for development, says Hamed

KUWAIT has participated in a seminar organised jointly by the Arab Gulf Information Documentation Centre, the GCC Information Centre and the UAE Information Ministry.

Sheikh Ahmad Bin Hamed, the UAE Minister of Information and Culture, opened the seminar with a speech in which he described the present era as the age of information, stressing that the collection, keeping and utilisation of information was a substantially vital task indicative of the degree of development and progress.

The director of the Arab Gulf Information Documentation Centre Dr Jassem Mohammad Jarjes, then stressed that information lay at the bottom of scientific development and that inter-co-operation

among information centres was the first step towards optimum utilisation of information available.

The director-general of the GCC Information Centre, Mohammad Abdul Karim Al Shatti, also delivered a speech in which he attached importance to the considerable effect of information in modern times through the various scientific and technological achievements.

Seventy researchers participated in the seminar from various information and scientific centres in the region, and recommendations adopted over the three-day seminar stressed the need for close co-operation and co-ordination among all information centres to fully utilise their information potentials, establish a national information

system in each country in the region, which would act as an informational liaison with the country's various libraries and information centres.

This would ultimately form part of an overall regional information system, provide needed technical requirements to operate all information centres whereby to unify information work at the regional and pan-Arab level, intensify awareness programmes and use all public media for this purpose.

Enhancing on-the-job training programmes to continually prepare qualified cadres and keep them in touch of all recent developments in the field and establish national societies for libraries and information centres in the Gulf to ensure continued upgrading of capabilities and activities, has also been recommended.

هكذا من لاهل



## Over KD 5m allocated for National Library

He also added that a draft law granting permanent residence for some Arab employees was still being studied by specialized committees at the Higher Planning Council.

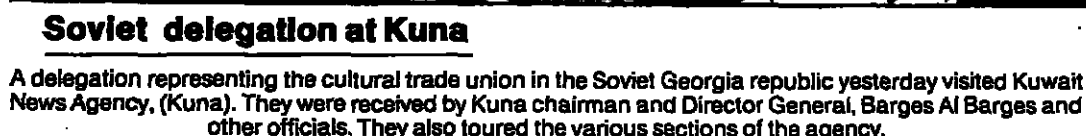
The state will also build five theatres in different governorates besides children's centres.

This aimed at offering more facilities for citizens to complete their formalities. For instance, the Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) had a great store of

The private sector should co-operate with the public sector to find solutions that enabled Kuwaiti citizens to work in the private sector. He added that Kuwaitis

He also added that a draft law granting permanent residence for some Arab employees was still being studied by specialized committees at the Higher Planning Council.

He also stressed that the Gulf region lagged far behind Europe and other industrialised regions in recycling garbage.



A KUWAITI girl, who was shot in the chest, lies unconscious at the Mubarak Al Kabir Hospital's intensive care unit.

The Mubarak Al Kabir police station had received a report of a homicide about a shooting incident at a house in the housing area. When the police rushed to the house they found that the girl had accidentally shot herself while unwittingly trying with a pistol.

The police are waiting for the girl to recover to learn details of the incident.

station in Sulaybiyah that items at their camps in Doha do not have been stolen.

One citizen said he found his tent and a generator missing after leaving them in the Doha desert for winter camping.

Another citizen said that his tent, a TV, video, a cassette recorder and a generator were stolen from the same area, while a third one said that his tent was stolen.

The Interior Ministry public relations appealed to

### Camp gear theft

THREE citizens have complained to the police

But the minister said that this formula required that the places and phases of increasing productivity must be determined in such a way as not to affect the population structure.

CAIRO, Nov. 25, (Agencies): Kuwaiti Defence Minister Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed Al Sabah, on his first official visit to Cairo, said Egypt's arms industry today and called for further military co-operation.

"Egyptian-made weapons were tested in Kuwait and experts said they match weapons made by advanced nations," Sheikh Nawaf told reporters after talks here with his Egyptian counterpart General Yousef Sabri Abu Taleb.

Egypt hopes to boost sales from its arms industry, the most advanced in the Arab world, as the Gulf Arab states, with which ties were restored two years ago.

Kuwait, which was attacked by Iran several times during the

1980-88 Gulf war, installed the Egyptian-made Amoun Air Defence System earlier this year. The order was signed shortly before the Gulf ceasefire.

Kuwait has also purchased Egyptian-made armoured personnel carriers and industry sources said more than 150 have been delivered so far.

"We did not only buy the weapons because they are Egyptian but because they are good... The aim behind my visit is to discuss military co-operation and ways of developing it," the Kuwaiti minister said.

An undisclosed number of Egyptian military experts have been assigned to Kuwait to help train its 200,000-man army and install the Amoun.

Upon his arrival in Cairo

Sheikh Nawaf was greeted at the airport by Kuwait's Ambassador in Cairo Abdul Aziz Al Kander and senior Egyptian army officials.

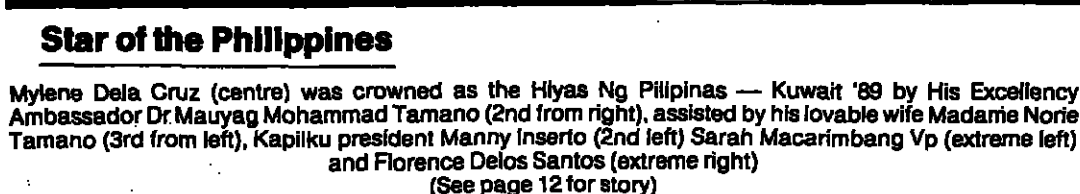
Nawaf said that he was pleased to be in Egypt, at the invitation of his Egyptian counterpart Field Marshal Yousef Sabri Abu Taleb.

He noted that his meetings with Egyptian officials will focus on military co-operation between the two countries.

For his part, Abu Taleb welcomed Sheikh Nawaf and indicated that his visit is the first ever by a Kuwaiti Defence Minister to Egypt, saying their talks will relate to strengthening co-operation between the two countries' armed forces.

Statistics conducted in 1984 showed that 15 cases of absconding maid occurred. He said that

...the country in the eyes of the ancient worshippers of earth, the  
explained.



AN advertisement on using herbs to lose weight created quite a stir when it was published in a local daily recently.

It had appeared for the first time and caused disturbance and confusion among doctors and public, specially those who wanted to get rid of their fat as soon as possible.

The advertisement was placed last month by Al Tayeb Herbal Centre, located on Ibn Khaldoun Street at Hani Al Othman Complex.

It stated that, without exercise, dieting, or cutting down sleep, a person could lose between four to eight kilogrammes a month.

It stressed that using herbal medicine was the best for slimming.

Director of the Islamic Medicine Centre at the Ministry of Health, Dr Ahmad Al Jondi, supported treatment with herbal medicine provided treatment was prescribed by a specialist doctor or scientist specialised in the field.

He said that at most occasions herbal treatments might have less side effects than regular medical treatments prescribed by doctors at clinics and hospitals. He stressed that herbal treatments should

only be prescribed by qualified individuals.

Scientific researches on a number of herbs concluded that some herbs had dangerous side effects if misused by patients.

He said a plant called "sinsoyou" which grew in the area and had side effects that could cause cancer to users.

Dr Jondi warned that some medicine companies might create obstacles for other companies manufacturing herbal medicines due to competition.

Tayeb Al Tayeb, the owner of the Tayeb Centre for Medical Herbs, explained that he is not practicing a hobby nor a profession. He said that he was working at the oil sector and had taken up the profession of herbal applications because of his concern and awareness of the public's need for such treatment.

He stressed that he had a deep knowledge of the nature of herbs and their applications.

He added that he was now preparing for his doctorate degree at Harvard. The university had welcomed his thesis which dealt with the history of popular medicine from 4000 years BC before the development of modern medicine.

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## ARAB TIMES

### Thought for today

NO people are ever as divided as those of the same blood — Mavis Gallant, Canadian writer (1922—)

## Hirawi inherits old problems

### Worst split among Christians

BEIRUT, (Reuters): The election of a new president of Lebanon before his assassinated predecessor is buried reflects how closely Parliament is bound to its pact to end 14 years of civil war.

But behind the poll lies the worst split in the dominant Christian community in Lebanon's history and Maronite army chief Michel Aoun seems still intent on thwarting the peace plan.

It was that inter-Christian rift which late President Rene Muawad proved unable to bridge, when he failed to persuade Christian leaders with access to Aoun to join a true unity government.

New President Elias Hirawi comes to power riding a wave of popular sympathy after the assassination. He has seen how Muawad tried to tackle the problem in his 17 days in office.

#### Lure

Hirawi named a 14-man cabinet on Saturday which failed to lure any of Aoun's allies in Lebanon's Christian enclave but did include prominent Christian deputy George Saadeh.

Parliamentary sources, however, said that it was not known whether Saadeh would agree to join Hirawi's new government.

Saadeh heads the powerful Falange Party in the enclave held by Aoun and played a major role in ensuring deputies agreed to the Arab peace plan for Lebanon in Taif, Saudi Arabia, in October.

But he failed to attend Friday's election in the town of Chitaura. Like most other Christian deputies who voted for the Taif agreement, he has since not dared to return to the enclave.

Another Christian deputy named as a minister, Michel Sassine, attended Friday's poll but did not vote. His house in East Beirut was bombed in retaliation for endorsing the pact.

#### Hailed

Hirawi's election was quickly hailed by Syria and the Arab architects of the pact as evidence the setback of Muawad's killing had been overcome by the Christian and Muslim deputies.

Hirawi won an enthusiastic welcome from other Arab states and Western powers, which recoiled in horror when Muawad was blown apart by a bomb in Beirut on Wednesday.

But hundreds of Syrian and Lebanese soldiers guarding the election in a luxury hotel in the Syrian-controlled Bekaa valley showed how dangerously partitioned Lebanon has already become.

The 14-month-old rivalry between Aoun in the enclave and any government with authority over Syrian-controlled areas of Lebanon threatens to make the peace pact little more than a plan. It will only truly work if it applies to all of Lebanon.

"Little changes with the presidency as long as Aoun has the (presidential) palace," said a diplomat in Beirut. "This war isn't after titles but wants territory, towns and city blocks."

#### Reject

Aoun, who lives in a bunker under the presidential palace in east Beirut, rejects the plan to end 14 years of civil war as it fails to stipulate a swift Syrian troop withdrawal from Lebanon.

His 15,000 troops battled around Beirut for six months with Syrian gunners and their Lebanese allies until September in some of the worst shelling of the war. More than 800 people were killed.

The agreement, which 58 deputies had endorsed as the best chance for a lasting peace, takes powers from the Christian Maronite president and gives them to the Muslim-led cabinet.

A political analyst said the poll showed Aoun gained relatively little by Muawad's death, whether or not his supporters were involved as Syria and some critics have suggested.

#### Security

Aoun only improved his reputation as a hardened survivor by not being the first to fall to the assassins. Muawad's killing embarrassed the Syrians who had mounted a huge security operation in an attempt to protect him, the analyst added.

But political sources said that while Muawad was a moderate who sought a consensus, Hirawi has a temper and has proved he will not get out of his way to avoid any confrontation ahead.

"I extend my hand to co-operate with every Lebanese and especially the leaders without any exception," Hirawi announced, as Muawad had done on his election, in an apparent reference to Aoun.

But unlike Muawad, Hirawi threatened that his march towards peace "is also capable of wiping out whoever stands in its way."

Minutes later Hirawi was rebuffed. "Those who conducted the election have no constitutional capacity and do not represent the people. What happened is void... it is a comedy," a spokesman for Aoun said.

## TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1580 — Peace of Felix ends seventh war of religion in France.
- 1648 — Pope Innocent X condemns Peace of Westphalia which ended 30 years war one month earlier.
- 1764 — Jesuit Order is suppressed in France.
- 1812 — French Army meets disaster in retreating across Russia's Beresina river.
- 1857 — First Australian parliament is opened in Melbourne.
- 1896 — Russia discloses plan to seize Constantinople if Britain intervenes in Crete.
- 1922 — King Tutankhamen's tomb is opened in Egypt.
- 1940 — Half-million Jews of Warsaw, Poland, are ordered to live within a walled ghetto.
- 1949 — India adopts constitution as federal republic within British Commonwealth.
- 1967 — Death toll is put at 250 in floods in central Portugal.
- 1969 — Armed conflict breaks out on Saudi Arabian-South Yemen border.
- 1970 — Bolivian painter, disguised as priest, tries to kill Pope Paul in Manila, Philippines, but Pope escapes injury.
- 1978 — Muslim religious leaders and politicians seeking to topple Shah of Iran call general strike that virtually paralyzes Iran.
- 1980 — Italian officials say more than 3,000 people have been killed and more than 1,000 missing in earthquake that struck Naples area three days earlier.
- 1986 — Iranian missile slams into crowded residential district of Baghdad, Iraq, killing 48 civilians and wounded 52.
- 1987 — Powerful typhoon whips across Philippines, killing 270 people and damaging or destroying 14,000 homes.
- 1988 — Rival Shiite militiamen fight fierce street battles in struggle for control of Muslim districts in west Beirut.



Political party workers sleep outside the sealed building where the Indian government stores ballot boxes. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Infighting could cost Rajiv his leadership

NEW DELHI, (Reuters): India, battered by one of its most violent elections, faces a period of intense political infighting that could cost Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi his leadership of the Congress Party.

More than 60 people died in clashes between rival political activists since polling began on Wednesday and both sides have charged their opponents with ballot rigging.

"This is the most violent I can remember," analyst Pran Chopra said. "There is a more general air of discord this time than has existed in our elections before."

Unidentified gunmen shot in the air on Friday when opposition leader Vishwanath Pratap Singh visited a polling station in his own Fatehpur constituency where he claimed rigging was going on. No one was hurt.

The last of India's 498 million voters go to the polls on Sunday in Sikkim and two of the country's most violent regions — Bihar and Punjab.

Most of Friday's 32 deaths were in northern Bihar, one of India's poorest regions where hundreds of people died last month in Hindu-Muslim clashes sparked by a dispute over a temple.

Massive security will be imposed in Punjab where violence spawned by Sikh militants fighting for their own homeland in the state has killed more than

1,900 people so far this year.

But with only 36 million people still to vote, attention is turning to what happens next.

Rajiv's Congress Party not only faces losing its grip on power for only the second time since independence in 1947, but Rajiv himself could be under threat, political analysts said.

V.P. Singh, the Janata Dal Party leader who is the most likely opposition candidate for prime minister, is confidently predicting a rout for Congress.

But it is far from certain that the adopted son of a minor princely family will have enough support to form a government.

Chopra, an analyst for the Independent Centre for Policy Research in New Delhi, said the level of election violence was directly related to the closeness of the race.

Opinion polls released before voting began predicted that Rajiv was unlikely to get the 273 seats in the lower house of Parliament he needs to win an absolute majority.

The former airline pilot, who came to power after his mother Indira Gandhi was assassinated in 1984, has campaigned tirelessly up and down the country but failed to spark the same sort of enthusiasm that gave him a landslide five years ago.

An aide blamed Rajiv for failing to get rid of the ruling party of its older generation of power brokers and of failing to galvanise the party to face an opposition that seemed victory.

"All these guys are interested in is power. They've neglected the grassroots organisation which feels leaderless and directionless," he said.

Chopra said if Congress failed to get more seats than the National Front alliance dominated by Janata Dal, pressure will grow to dump Rajiv and there could be realignment at the centre of Indian politics.

"I find it increasingly unlikely that Congress is going to get near enough to form a government with its committed allies. It is going to need the backing of other groups which would not be forthcoming if Rajiv Gandhi is still there."

Any threat to Rajiv will come at the first meeting of the party's parliamentary group after the last results are declared on Tuesday. Counting begins on Sunday and first national trends should emerge on Monday.

"I would say that he is at dire risk," a Western diplomat said. "I think that we have to say that there is a major risk of a Congress defeat and I think that there could be a completely new leader by the end of next week."

## Intimidation and ballot-box stuffing

## India's polls stained by violence

NEW DELHI, (AP): Political activists have used violence, intimidation and ballot-box stuffing to sway India's general elections, leading one newspaper to comment on Saturday that the world's largest democracy is "seriously flawed."

The elections, which end Sunday and will determine whether Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi remains in power, are shaping up as the most violent in India's history.

At least 92 people have been killed since the voting for a new Parliament began Wednesday, and the balloting has not been completed in two of the most volatile regions of the country.

Voting will take place on Sunday in the northern state of Punjab, where Sikh separatists have killed at least 1,650 people this year, and in eastern Bihar state, where violence between Hindus and Muslims has left at least 300 people dead in the past six weeks.

Election workers will begin counting the votes on Sunday morning, with the first results expected to be announced on Sunday night, after the polls close in Bihar, Punjab and tiny Sikkim.

"It is without doubt the most violent election in India's history," said political commentator Rajni Kothari. "This can lead to very serious trouble."

In an editorial titled "Poll perversion," the independent Times of India newspaper said the "progressive induction of money and muscle power to influence the electoral verdict" was rendering the election meaningless.

The Congress Party and the National Front, a coalition of five opposition parties, accused each other of killings, voter intimidation and ballot-box stuffing during the polling Wednesday and Friday.

The opposition has contended that vote fraud was

rampant in Rajiv's own constituency of Amethi, in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh.

The country's watchdog body for the polls, the Election Commission, has said the charges will be investigated, the results withheld if the inquiries are not completed and a new election ordered if necessary.

Calling the elections in Amethi a "national disgrace," the usually conservative Times of India said: "If this is the example set in the prime minister's own constituency, he is left without moral authority to control the hoodlums and mafia dons who make a mockery of the democratic process in other parts of the country."

On Friday, at least 39 people were killed during voting in 266 of the 524 constituencies at stake. On Wednesday, when 221 constituencies voted, at least 48 people were killed. Five others died on Thursday in lingering disputes from Wednesday's voting.

The Election Commission has ordered a revote in 930 of the country's 590,000 polling booths after deciding that fraud had been committed.

At least 400 of the revotes were ordered in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh, governed by the Telugu Desam Party, a member of the opposition National Front coalition.

The number of revotes ordered is nearly double the 480 ordered in the 1984 elections, which propelled Rajiv to a four-fifths majority in Parliament after the assassination of his mother and predecessor, Indira Gandhi.

Some of the revotes were scheduled Saturday and the rest will be held "as soon as possible," the commission said.

On Sunday, voting will be held in 37 constituencies in the states of Punjab and Bihar and in Sikkim's one constituency.

The campaign has been muted in Punjab and Bihar because of violence arising from opposition to India's Hindu majority.

Punjab is the scene of the violent six-year-old insurrection by militants from the Sikh community for an independent nation. The competing candidates include a former police officer on trial for conspiring to assassinate Mrs Gandhi and the wife of one of her assassins.

In Bihar, sectarian violence between Hindus and Muslims earlier this month and in October killed at least 300 people. The fighting started after militant Hindus announced plans to build a temple at a disputed site claimed by followers of both faiths.

Congress Party leaders privately acknowledged the Hindu-Muslim violence in Bihar has affected the governing party's chances.

"We seem to have alienated both communities," said one governing party lawmaker, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Opinion polls say the opposition has a strong chance of forming the next government by gaining a majority of the seats at stake in the elections.

They cite dissatisfaction with Rajiv's rule and the largely successful efforts by opposition groups to form a unified bloc as key reasons for the plummeting popularity of the Congress Party.

Neither the Congress nor the opposition has adopted a platform that calls for major changes in India's domestic or foreign policy. The chief issue has been whether or not the Congress remains in power.

murder. These candidates span the ideological spectrum.

Sikh radicals, seeking to create a new nation called Khalistan in northern Punjab state, have killed about 7,500 people in the last four years. This year some of the radicals are running for office.

Atinderpal Singh, alleged chief of the Khalistan Liberation Organisation and the suspected mastermind of Mrs Gandhi's assassination, is running for a Parliament seat from jail where he awaits trial for a series of lethal bombings in New Delhi. Joining him on the ballot is Bimal Khalsa, widow of one of Mrs Gandhi's killers, Beant Singh, who was killed on the spot by other security men.

Both Atinderpal Singh and Mrs Khalsa are favoured to win.

"This is a step forward," Sen Gupta said. "They will contribute more to society roaming the halls of government than they would roaming the hills of Punjab, killing innocent farmers."

Families are also getting into the political act. Three members of the Nehru-Gandhi family — Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, his estranged sister-in-law Maneka Gandhi, and his estranged cousin Arun Nehru — are running for Parliament seats. Only the prime minister is running on the Congress ticket.

Their dynasty was started by Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first prime minister and father of Indira Gandhi.

## Letters to the editor

### Anomalies in prices

SIR: I appreciate the letter 'Justify Prices' (AT13/11) dealing with the anomalies in the price structure of foreign newspapers and publications in Kuwait. I think that there is no known criterion by which the selling prices of foreign publications are determined here.

It is a fact that expats have no other option but to buy at whatever prices the newspapers are offered for, should they wish to know in detail the regional and also local news from their home countries. When paying in fils many do not realise how much extra it is costing them.

Some of my friends, because of the high prices which they cannot afford, used to borrow newspapers and periodicals from neighbours and colleagues. But one cannot expect this from everybody.

I have noticed newspapers costing 50 cents and 60 cents in England being sold in Kuwait at KD 1.200. A changed approach cannot be expected with regard to newspapers coming from other countries as well. Annual subscription including air-mail surcharge for the American edition of 'Reader's Digest' is \$29.93 i.e. \$2.49 per issue equivalent to 745 fils, whereas it is sold at KDI.500.

Arab Times making an in-depth study into this racket (if I may call it so) would be worthwhile. Meantime, let us watch for what the newspaper dealers have got to say.

Suresh Babu,  
Hawally.

### Masjid and temple

SIR: Much has been said and read about Babri Masjid and Ram Temple. Let me write my opinion.

Could it have been possible for the Indian government to prevent the foundation stone laying ceremony of the temple on a private land owned by a Hindu? Would it not have amounted to the encroachment of the fundamental right of a citizen? Even if they laid the foundation, they could not have built the temple unless they used the government property nearby. Did not Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi promise the people that the government would not allow the government property to be used or the Babri Masjid to be damaged?

The timing of the stone laying ceremony on the eve of the general election clearly showed that the opposition led by the Janata Dal have colluded with the Hindu fundamentalists to insist on carrying the ceremony at this time, so that they can get Rajiv in a tight corner, and sling mud at him, calling him anti-Muslim, while some of them posing as the friends of the Muslims, would get the Muslim votes. They have succeeded in this also. Did not the Indian government see to it that the ceremony was peaceful, and the mosque was well guarded?

I cannot understand one thing. How can it be desecration of the mosque, even if a temple is built nearby, as the mosque was built on the site, where a Hindu temple once existed. Can not people understand that the mosque and the temple are the abode of God!

Liz Thomas,  
Safat.

ALL letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

## Quote me

"Thank God they didn't have to fire a shot. That hotel was created with funds from the clutches of this outrageous guerrilla attack. This morning the Salvadoran special forces, joined by US elements of special operations went through the hotel, and I can tell you I'm very pleased that all the Americans have been released. There was no loss of life." President George Bush after the release of US Green Berets in El Salvador.

"It was a totally unacceptable performance from an Arsenal team. I am normally very protective towards the players. But on this occasion there is nothing I can say in their defence. The pitch (field) cannot and will not be used as an excuse by me or the players. We trained for two days on an artificial surface so we knew what to expect." Arsenal manager George Graham after Arsenal's 3-1 loss to Oldham.

"I am more tranquil now. I like living serene. Certainly the transfer to a 'Latin' team and the demanding support of Italian fans are going to cause me some pressure. The enthusiasm of Ferrari supporters is unique and I am ready to trade a few problems for it." Alain Prost after test drive with new team Ferrari.

"Disappointed agents of South Africa racism are behind these outbreaks of violence and the intention of these people may also be to create a state of instability in the country which can be blamed on the Swapo government. The Zambian Daily Mail (ruling party) of Lusaka, Zambia, on violence in northern Namibia.

"I am beginning a new life, a new page of my career. I am excited and motivated. I believe that both I and Ferrari possess the potential to win next year's world title." Frenchman Alain Prost who joined the Italian team Ferrari for the 1990 racing season following six successful years with McLaren.

"If things keep going at this rate, they will give us a beautiful necktie — but we can only wear it in the coffin." — Loch Walsby being acrobatic on Canadian aid to Poland.

"I do have a lot to say to Mr Gorbachev. Such a conference would be prepared beforehand by specialists and we would only move our lips. I do understand the terrible problems that Gorbachev has. He is like a juggler who has a hundred balls in the air, and somehow he is catching all of them." — Socialist leader Loch Walsby being humorous when asked what he would say to Gorbachev when they meet.

"They're on the final offensive part II. Like Rambo that went on to part four, these guys are going to be finalising a bunch of times." — Col Mauricio Ernesto Vargas, commander of the Third Infantry Brigade in San Miguel, on the so-called final offensive launched by Salvadoran rebels.

"The electorate has given us a mandate to hammer (hit) and adopt, in a spirit of compromise, a spirit of give-and-take, a constitution that will lead our people into nationhood." — Hage Geingob, Swapo's election director, who was voted chairman of the assembly.

"I'm here with great humility and pride. Pride, because an occasion like this only happens once in a lifetime. Humility, because I, Sam Nujoma, son of an ordinary citizen, have been honoured to be part of the struggle that brought us here and to lead us to nationhood." — Sam Nujoma to the Namibian assembly.

"We have no mention of God on our bills. That is why America is so great. Every bill says, 'In God We Trust.'" — Sharma, Indian astrologer, recommending a change of Indian money.



MIDEAST

# EEC, PLO to join hands

ABU DHABI, Nov 25, (AP): The European Economic Community is planning to set up a joint committee with the PLO to push for Middle East peace, a senior Palestinian official was reported as saying here today.

"The EEC is studying a proposal to set up a standing committee with the Palestinians to follow up efforts to achieve a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East," said Bassam Abu Sharif, adviser to Palestine Liberation Organisation leader Yasser Arafat.

Abu Sharif said the proposal was discussed by foreign ministers of Italy, France and Ireland at meetings with Arafat in Tunisia this month.

Although Abu Sharif said the European role in a peace process was "accelerating," he warned of a new war in the region if the United States did not press Israel to accept peace.

"In the political field, a crucial stage has been reached and Washington either has to take a step to push the peace process forward or the Middle East will explode once more," Abu Sharif said.

The United States, Israel and Egypt have been negotiating a formula for elections in Israeli-occupied Arab territories to give Palestinians autonomy.

The Palestinian official said "Palestinian patience has exceeded the limit," stressing that peace overtures by the PLO towards Israel were not dictated by any weakness on the part of the Palestinians.

# Bayer under probe for Iran supplies

LEVERKUSEN, West Germany, Nov 25, (AP): The giant chemical concern Bayer AG said yesterday it is under investigation in connection with providing Iran with materials for making pesticides. However, the company denied any wrongdoing.

Many chemicals used to make pesticides can also be used in the manufacture of chemical weapons. Customs officials in Cologne refused to comment on whether an investigation against Bayer was under way.

In a statement to the news media, Bayer said customs officials searched its offices in the cities of Leverkusen, Dormagen and Monheim on Nov 14.

Bayer said customs officials suspect its 1987 deliveries to Iran violated West Germany's export law. But the company said West German law does not require an export permit for the material it sold to Iran to help make pesticides.

Bayer said the plant, located near the Iranian city of Gharzin, is scheduled to begin operating next year.

West Germany has been rocked by several export scandals within the past year, which included allegations that West German companies helped build a suspected chemical weapons plant in Libya.

# Iraqi minister in Bahrain

BAHRAIN, Nov 25, (Reuters): Iraqi Defence Minister General Abdul Abbas Shannah arrived in Bahrain today on his first reported visit to this Gulf island since a ceasefire came into force in the Iraq-Iran war in August last year.

The Gulf News Agency quoted Shannah as saying on arrival his visit was aimed at boosting co-operation between the two nations' armed forces.

General Shannah's visit is at the invitation of Bahrain's Crown Prince Sheikh Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa. Bahrain is a member of the situation Gulf Co-operation Council which generally supported Baghdad during the eight-year-old Gulf war.

# Iran invites UN investigator

UNITED NATIONS, Nov 25, (Reuters): Iran, the subject of critical UN human rights reports for the past five years, has for the first time invited a UN investigator to visit the country, an Iranian source said yesterday.

No date has yet been set for the visit.

The invitation was contained in a letter from Iranian UN representative Kamal Kharazi to the UN Human Rights Commission's special representative on the situation in Iran, Reynaldo Galindo Pohl.

In his latest report published earlier this month, Galindo Pohl, a law professor from El Salvador, said politically motivated mass executions took place in Iran last year.

He also said that of more than 900 executions officially announced by Iran during the

first five months of 1989, mostly for drug trafficking, many were also alleged to have been politically motivated.

A spokesman for the People's Mujahedeen of Iran, staunch opponents of the Tehran government, said the invitation to Galindo Pohl was a ploy to avoid stronger condemnation by the UN.

# Peres threatens to quit coalition

## Shamir urged to start peace talks

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Nov 25, (Agencies): Vice-Premier Shimon Peres was quoted today as saying his left-leaning Labour Party would resign from Israel's governing coalition unless more progress was made in Middle East peace efforts.

Peres' remarks reported by army radio, contrasted with an upbeat message from Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir who returned from 10-days in the US, France and Italy, saying he succeeded in relieving pressures on Israel to speak to the PLO.

In Jerusalem, a bottle bomb made with gunpowder and a candle was found outside the home of a surgeon who transported the heart of an Israeli soldier killed by Arabs into a Palestinian.

A group of right-wing Jewish extremists claimed responsibility.

In other unrest, troops shot and wounded 17 Palestinians, including a nine-year-old and two 12-year-old boys, during clashes with masked activists and stone-throwing protesters in three refugee camps in the occupied Gaza Strip, Arab reports said.

The army confirmed one wounding of a masked activist armed with a knife and was checking the other reports.

In his latest threat to topple the Israeli government, Peres said Shamir's talks in Washington, Paris and Rome "did not change anything," in the negotiations process, the radio said.

"If the Likud continues to be obstinate there is a doubt Labour will sit with it in one government," Peres reportedly added, referring to the right-wing party which Shamir heads.

The uneasy Likud-Labour alliance was forged after inconclusive parliamentary elections last year. Peres has repeatedly said he would dissolve the partnership unless Shamir succeeded in starting peace talks with the Palestinians.

The parties are divided about making concessions to the Arabs for peace. Labour advocates withdrawing from some occupied lands, while Likud objects to relinquishing any war-torn territory.

Neither party has a majority in Parliament, with Likud and Labour holding 40 and 39 seats respectively in the 120-member

# Jews settling in

AMMAN, Nov 25, (Kuna): Israeli authorities have already built five thousand apartments to absorb 25,000 Jewish settlers from the Soviet Union.

According to Ma'ariv newspaper, two thousands of such apartments are in the centre of occupied Palestine and the other three thousands are in Safad, Bisan and other areas.

The paper added that the Israeli authorities have plans to build 25,000 apartments during the next year to accommodate other Soviet and Ethiopian settlers.

In contrast, the Jerusalem Post newspaper said eight-year-old Arab charts submitted to Israeli authorities to establish 18,000 apartments in occupied east Jerusalem have been recently considered by the Israeli authorities who agreed to build 7600 apartments only.

legislature.

In July Labour reneged on a threat to bolt the government in after the US stepped in to mediate differences between Israeli hardliners and the Arabs. If Labour carried out its threat this time, it would likely mean early national elections which are scheduled only in 1992.

Shamir, who spoke to reporters after his plane landed at Ben Gurion international airport near Tel Aviv, claimed he had advanced his proposal to hold elections in the occupied territories as part of an interim peace solution of self-rule for Palestinians.

He said US President George Bush and Baker had assured during meetings in Washington on Nov 15 "in a clear and unambiguous way that the US would not ask Israel to negotiate with the PLO."

"We agreed that despite the differences over the final steps of the plan regarding the final status of Judea, Samaria and Gaza, we must go forward together on this," Shamir said.

Regarding his talks in Europe, Shamir said he hoped to overcome continued French and Italian calls for Israel to negotiate with the PLO. "If we do not succeed in convincing them, we can at least weaken their opposition," Shamir said.

Both the Americans and Europeans have been trying to mediate between Israel and the Arabs over Shamir's plan.

Palestinians have balked at agreeing to elections, because the plan omits a role for the PLO and fails to guarantee eventual statehood in the occupied lands.

# Hunger strike at Ansar camp

AMMAN, Nov 25, (Kuna): Five thousand Palestinian prisoners in the Israeli-run Ansar "3" camp in the Negev area began an open-ended hunger strike until their demands were met by the occupation authorities, radio Israel monitored here last night said.

Formed by the prisoners, a representative committee failed to persuade the prison administrators to improve the increasingly miserable situation in which they have been living since the outbreak of the uprising two years ago.

The Palestinian prisoners appeal to world human-rights bodies, the International Red Cross, the UN and its specialised agencies to intervene immediately to put an end to their tragic circumstances and sufferings at the hands of the Israeli occupiers.

They also appeal to all conscientious people to take immediate action to rescue lives of a number of prisoners with deteriorating health situation and put pressure on the Israeli authorities to provide medical care for the prisoners.

At least 1,200 prisoners have been held without trials in the Israeli jails for several months.

The Society of Arab Studies as well as the Committee for Land Research in Jerusalem have published statistics concerning the destruction of agricultural products and the confiscation of land by the Israeli occupation authorities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip last October.

The statistics published here last night, showed that 2,390 dunams were confiscated in the West Bank and Gaza. 32 dunams went for military use and 207 were made roads for the settlements, in addition to the destruction of dunams of agricultural land on the pretext of preventing stone-throwing on Israeli cars and to use it for military training.

The statistical report added that the occupation authorities uprooted around 3,565 fruit-bearing trees that cover 149 dunams in different areas.

The losses resulted of these Zionist practices are estimated at \$1.3 million.



In search of sons

Anna Gabarayev clutches a picture of her son Konstantin, a Soviet soldier missing in the Afghan war, on her arrival in Islamabad, with a group of Soviet mothers searching for sons believed held prisoners by the mujahedeen. (Reuters wirephoto)

# Hope for talks on Mideast in Malta

## Superpower summit

ROME, Nov 25, (Kuna): A prominent Palestinian figure today hoped here that the forthcoming superpowers summit would discuss the Middle East question.

Faisal Al Hussein, director of the Palestinian studies centre in occupied Jerusalem, told Kuna in an interview here that the summit of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and US President George Bush off Malta on December 2, should consider with greater concern the Mideast crisis.

He attributed his demand to the fact that the region was entering a new stage and is in need of real support to reach a peaceful settlement that the PLO had laid down its foundation through the Palestinian peace project.

The Middle East had been a spot of constant East-West

rivalry and time has come to convert it into an area of co-operation with the end of the 20th century and the advent of the 21st, he elaborated.

Hussein, who is one of the national Palestinian activists in the occupied Palestinian lands, hoped that the Bush-Gorbachev summit would pave the way for such co-operation and for a better understanding of the Palestinian peace plan.

On the Palestinian-Israeli dialogues that are organised every now and then in Western capitals, Hussein said they play an important role particularly in developing, deepening and supporting the uprising.

He underlined that current stage of the intifada call for intensifying efforts with the internal front of the other party will be decisive in settling result of the conflict.



High security

Lebanese Army soldier guards Park Hotel in the eastern town of Chitaura where Parliament assembled for the presidential election. (Reuters wirephoto)

# MIDEAST BRIEFS

**Fundamentalists face trial:** Twenty-four Islamic fundamentalists are due to stand trial on Tuesday charged with illegal activities, a spokesman for their movement said today.

The spokesman for the Al Adl Wa Al-Ihsane Islamic movement said they were accused of belonging to an unauthorised organisation, possessing documents threatening state security and holding unauthorised meetings.

No government comment was immediately available. (Reuters)

**Kaddoumi to debate:** Foreign Minister Farouk Kaddoumi of Palestine will participate in next week's General Assembly debate on the question of the Middle East and Palestine, the permanent observer of Palestine, Zuhdi Labib Terzi, told Kuna yesterday.

Kaddoumi is scheduled to arrive in New York tomorrow for the week-long sessions on these two issues.

The debate on the Middle East begins Monday and will probably end Wednesday to be followed by the debate on Palestine.

The list of speakers has not been disclosed, but many member states and representatives of regional groups are expected to take the floor. (Kuna)

**Perez de Cuellar recommends:** Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar recommended on Friday a further six-month extension of the mandate of Unifil, the UN disarmament observer force that separates Israeli and Syrian forces in the Golan Heights.

The recommendation is contained in the secretary-general's latest report to the Security Council on the situation in the area which he described as quiet.

But he said the overall situation in the Middle East continues to be potentially dangerous and is likely to remain so "unless and until a comprehensive settlement covering all aspects of the Middle East problem can be reached."

He called for determined efforts to tackle the problem with a view to arriving at a just and durable peace settlement. (Kuna)

**Lucas succeeds Blecha:** Austrian Interior Minister Franz Lucas was elected in Vienna last night new president of the Austro-Arab relations society, succeeding Carl Blecha, the former interior minister.

The Minister of Scientific Research Erhard Buzak and Freedom Party's Secretary-General Haidi Schmidt and Deputy Peter Neumann were elected vice-presidents.

The new president stressed the society's determination to boost its activities in various areas to consolidate Austro-Arab relations, especially in support of the Palestinian question and improving the image of the Arabs in the country. (Kuna)

**Velayati to visit Dar-Es-Salam:** Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, leading a political and economic delegation, left Tehran last night for Dar-Es-Salam, Tanzania, on a tour which includes Zambia, Peoples' Democratic Republic of Yemen and Oman, Radio Tehran reported on Saturday.

The radio quoted Velayati as saying upon his departure, that he will hold talks with presidents and officials of these countries on bilateral relations and international issues of mutual concern. (Kuna)

**Diplomatic ties restored:** A delegation of Israel's Foreign Ministry is leaving for Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, this week to prepare for opening an Israeli embassy there following the restoration

# Egyptian envoy briefs Hussein

AMMAN, Nov 25, (Reuters): An Egyptian envoy arrived in Amman today to brief Jordanian leaders on stalled efforts to bring Israelis and Palestinians together in direct talks, Arab diplomats said.

They said Osama Al Baz, political adviser to President Hosni Mubarak, was also carrying a message to King Hussein from the Egyptian leadership focusing on Middle East peace and bilateral ties.

"Many things have taken place recently and Jordan has to be kept in the picture," an Arab diplomat told Reuters without elaborating.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation on Tuesday delivered its response to a five-point plan proposed by US Secretary of State James Baker for Palestinians and Israelis to meet for their first formal face-to-face talks.

The PLO's answer was given to Egypt, which is acting as a broker since it is the only Arab country to have made peace with Israel.

Israel has provisionally accepted the Baker points but insists the PLO must be excluded from the talks which it says must deal only with the Jewish state's plan for Palestinian elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The PLO insists on having the right to form a Palestinian delegation from inside and outside the occupied territories for these talks, that the joint dialogue should have an open agenda and that they lead to an international peace conference.

Jordan says it will back the PLO in whatever it sees best to realise its aims.

Meanwhile, in Cairo, Egyptian Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Dr Esmat Abdul Meguid today conferred separately with the Soviet Union and French ambassadors on latest Mideast developments.

Official Foreign Ministry sources told reporters that the Soviet diplomat relayed a message to Abdul Meguid from Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze concerning the situation in Lebanon as well as in the Middle East.

The sources added that the French ambassador handed Abdul Meguid a similar message from French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas also dealt with latest Mideast political events in addition to efforts targeting advancement of a Palestinian-Israeli peace dialogue.

The message also included an invitation for Egypt to attend the Euro-Arab dialogue, which was called for by French President Francois Mitterrand, they went on.

# Yemens' unification efforts may bear fruit as perestroika fever grips south; major announcement expected

NICOSIA, Nov 25, (Reuters): Foiled by a generation of sharp political differences, hopes have flowered in the past few weeks for unification of North and South Yemen.

There is no guarantee that the latest of many unity efforts will progress beyond argument about how to take the first step.

But each government is studying fresh proposals from the other to abolish an unloved and poorly-marked frontier that cuts through a region of recently discovered oil fields.

Changes sweeping the communist world have meanwhile reached South Yemen, an impoverished Marxist backwater.

"Aden's perestroika," as it is locally called, has brought freer travel, greater religious toleration, pledges of a fresh approach to

human rights and better relations with conservative neighbours like Saudi Arabia.

If nothing more, the new look in Aden has made more plausible the dream of unity between the South's three million people and the conservative North's 10 million.

The regional press is buzzing with speculation that a major announcement may be made next Thursday when the North's President, Ali Abdullah Saleh, will attend the South's Independence Day celebrations in Aden.

The two countries — the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen in the south and the Arab Republic of Yemen in the north — share the coast and fertile highlands of the Arabian peninsula's southwest corner.

The North gained independence after Turkey's Ottoman Empire collapsed during

World War One.

The strategic port of Aden, near the entrance to the Red Sea, was a British colony until 1967, linked with a string of British-protected sheikhdoms to the east.

South Yemen's leaders emerged from their independence struggle with a strong leftist dogma. Until President Haider Abubaker Al Attas and the ruling Socialist Party began their reforms this year local upheavals had changed the faces but not the policies.

North Yemen's monarchy was toppled in 1962 by army officers who drew inspiration and support mainly from the Arab nationalism of Egypt's Gamal Abdel Nasser. A seven-year civil war ended with a broadly conservative compromise marked by bloody leadership struggles.

President Saleh, in power in Sanaa since 1978, has brought stability and takes aim where he can get it, from East, West and the oil states of the Arab Gulf.

Tribal and religious leaders retain strong unofficial powers but new roads, modern communications and the movement of migrant workers to and from the Gulf have been opening up a land which was long one of the most isolated in the world.

Western diplomats consider the North's elected parliament a lively and fairly representative institution — a sharp contrast with the party-controlled politics of the South.

North Yemen's closest allies are Egypt, Iraq and Jordan, the other members of the nine-month-old Arab Co-operation Council.

Both governments have long declared that

Yemenis are really one people, but they have never been able to agree on how to make dream reality.

The most concrete measure achieved so far was agreement to develop border oil fields as a joint venture.

No one really knows where the frontier runs. Both sides hope that unification will in the end make it unnecessary to decide who owns which wells.

The London-based Arabic newspaper Hayat said on Monday the two sides still differed on how to take the first step.

It said Aden rejected Sanaa's proposal and is suggesting a federation with a unified parliament and cabinet.

The South's Socialist Party said on Thursday: "The Central Committee, after studying

proposals presented by both sides, sees that the practical and possible step which should be taken at this time is finding a formula for a transitory period of unification..."

The committee suggested that the best way for building a united state "is through democratisation of political and social life, which will guarantee the participation of the broadest masses of the people and their representatives."

According to the Sanaa weekly "26 September" on Friday the North's proposal calls for the people of both states to become citizens of a Yemen republic with a federal leadership controlling defence and foreign policy.

The federation would have one currency, one capital, one flag and a Supreme Court.



## EVENTS



Contestants taking part in the Hiyas ng Pilipinas contest. No 6 is Mylene de la Cruz, No 7 is Millet Domingo, No 9 Maria Sanchez, No 1 Tess Maningding, No 5 Maria Teresa Ibarle, No 2 Melanie Victoriano.

## Nostalgia Filipina '89 lives up to great expectations

### Mylene de la Cruz chosen Hiyas ng Pilipinas

By Peter D'Souza  
Arab Times staff

A BEAUTIFUL young Filipina Mylene de la Cruz won the personality and talent contest Hiyas ng Pilipinas - Kuwait '89 defeating ten other equally beautiful contestants at Philippine Community Day at the SAS Hotel on Friday.

Wearing a white strapless dress and showing her talent as a dancer, Mylene rhythmically danced to a Tahiti beat and the audience immediately gave a loud applause.

When asked what she would do if she were a millionaire, the compassionate beauty said she would give the money to charitable institutions.

Mylene received as her prize, a first class return ticket to Manila, a trophy and many other prizes.

The first runner-up called Hiyas ng Luzon was Millet Domingo who also won the photogenic contest.

Maria Sanchez whose hobbies are fishing and dancing was chosen as the second runner-up, Hiyas ng Visayas. The third runner-up Hiyas ng Mindanao, Tess Maningding also won the Best Gown and talent competitions. The fourth runner-up Hiyas ng Metro Manila, was Maria Teresa Ibarle who said her main purpose of working in Kuwait was to help her family in the Philippines.

Melanie Victoriano was awarded the Kodak prize.

Besides the personality and talent contest, well-

known Filipino singers and artists poured out their best to make Philippine Community Day a success. Love songs to rock 'n' roll music filled the air.

As all Filipinos are proud to say that they are Filipinos, Ting Buenaventura sang aloud Ako Ay Filipino (I am a Filipino).

"Be My Lady" sung by Emmanuel Tupas with little Marjan Marin was very touching. Later on Tupas joined Rena Marin and sang two duets "You Don't Bring Me Flowers" and "How Do You Keep the Music Playing" which were quite enjoyable.

Nostalgia Filipina, which was the theme of this year's Philippine Community Day was attended by a large number of people including the ambassadors of Norway and Thailand.

The many usherettes, attired in attractive blue and white gowns, found their hands full trying to find seats for the guests who kept flowing in unendingly. The tables were set close together and guests had to squeeze through, but were in a happy, expectant mood, and not bothered by this slight inconvenience.

The organisers started, very wisely, with the dinner, a buffet of Filipino and other dishes to satisfy all tastes. The buffet tables were in different parts of the hall, so guests did not have to wait long in the queues.

With dinner over and the guests replete, the over-four hour programme began with playing of the Kuwait and Philippines national anthems.

This was followed by a speech by Ting Buenaventura.

The guest speaker was then introduced by Consul Olivia Pala.

The Ambassador, Dr. Mauryag Mohd Taimano, spoke a few words and congratulated the organisers both from Kapilku and the embassy.

Shortly after, the eleven beautiful candidates for the Hiyas ng Pilipinas were introduced to the appreciative guests.

The Hiyas ng Pilipinas candidates were now required to show their talents. Some chose to sing, others to dance. There was a slight hitch when the music for one song got misplaced for some time. The girl took it calmly, the guests waited good-naturedly, and the wait was worthwhile.

This was followed later by the Best Gown competition. The candidates displayed a scintillating variety of gowns with professional aplomb. The unanimous choice was Tess Maningding who wore a flowing white gown with gold trimmings.

The eagerly-awaited highlight of the evening was the selection of the Hiyas ng Pilipinas.

By this time the guests had already selected their own favourite for the crown, and there was an electric atmosphere while the names of the five finalists was announced, followed by sighs or cheers from the gathering.

The judges needed quite a bit of time to choose the order of awards, and the emcees filled in the interval with various announcements.

Meanwhile, the guests were making choices of

their own and discussing the merits of each candidate, and they waited to see if their choices would tally with those of the judges.

The choices of the judges were fed into a computer and the excitement rose to a high pitch when the emcee began announcing the winners, commencing with the fourth runner-up. When two candidates were left and tension was at its highest, the emcee relieved it by announcing the Hiyas ng Pilipinas before her runner-up.

The winner was a popular choice and there was loud applause when her name was announced. Guests kept turning to each other to say they were right.

The drawing of raffle ticket lucky numbers was interspersed throughout the programme, and guests listened intently when numbers were called in the hope of winning one of the great number of prizes.

There were a few flaws in the long programme, such as over-loud music drowning out "You Don't Bring Me Flowers" sung by Rena Marin and Emmanuel Tupas, and delays in continuity, but these were minor and did not spoil the wonderful evening.

The main objectives of the function, which was organised by the Association of Filipinos in Kuwait (Kapilku) in co-operation with the Philippine embassy, was to bring all Filipinos in Kuwait closer and to ease their loneliness and homesickness. The proceeds of the function will be utilised to help less fortunate members of the association.

## TELEVISION PROGRAMME

### KTV 1

#### MORNING

- 9.30 The Opening and Holy Quran
- 9.40 Sabah Al Kher. News and Variety
- 9.50 Around the World: Cartoon serial
- 10.05 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
- 10.15 Ft Muntassaf Al Lail: Local serial (final part)
- 11.15 Sabah Al Kher News and variety
- 11.30 That's Incredible: Variety programme
- 12.30 News summary
- 12.35 Holy Quran and Closedown

#### EVENING

- 4.00 The Opening and Holy Quran
- 4.15 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
- 4.45 Cartoon serial (part 2)
- 5.15 Cartoons
- 5.45 Night chemists, airlines and official advertisements
- 6.00 Al Islam Hadhara: Religious serial (part 18)
- 7.15 Diwanayat Shuara Al Nabat: Local programme
- 8.00 Hwar Iml. Local cultural programme
- 8.30 Good Evening and local news
- 9.00 News in Arabic
- 9.45 Saber. Arabic serial (part 2)
- 10.30 Rae Al Samt: Beduin serial (part 8) starring Abeer Issa, Rouhi Al Safadi, Amal Al Dabas, Anwar Khaled
- 11.45 News Summary
- 11.50 The World Today via Satellite
- 12.15 Holy Quran and closedown

### KTV 2

- 6.00 Opening Announcement & Holy Quran
- 6.10 The Three Stooges. A cartoon series for children
- 6.30 Munsters Today. A woman admires "Vladimir" and flatters him.
- 7.00 Weird and Wonderful "Australia". A look at the strangest things unique to Australia
- 8.00 News in English
- 8.30 Bergerac "Ice Maiden". As the island is preparing for its grand auction, a very notorious and dangerous woman arrives and the police authority is kept on alert.
- 9.30 Sea Power "Commando". The commando force is considered, for its special features and missions the main force in the Navy
- 10.00 The Robert Guillaume Show. "Ann" joins a school to develop her knowledge and cultural abilities where she meets a group of teenagers.
- 10.30 Bestseller "Troubles". A British army officer joins his Irish fiancée after returning home. He has to face different customs and traditions in Ireland. He also has to face a new stage of conflict between the Irish and Britain.
- 12.00 News in Brief
- 12.15 Magazine D'Actualite

Please note that programmes and things are liable to change without notice.

### PRAYERS

Fajr	4.57 am
Zuhr	11.35
Asr	2.30 pm
Maghreb	4.50
Isha	6.11

### NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait  
Al Darban Pharmacy  
Arabian Gulf Street  
Al Sharqia Pharmacy  
Al Hilali Street  
Hawalli and Nagra  
Nourah Pharmacy  
Al Othman Street, Nagra  
Salma and Samah Pharmacy  
Kazim Pharmacy  
Al Rashid Street  
Fahad and Almasri  
Al Wafa Pharmacy  
Al Dabbous Street, Fahad  
Farwaniya  
Al Howailah Pharmacy  
Clinic Street, Farwaniya  
Jahra  
Al Abraj Pharmacy  
Dubul Al Kuzai Street

### SPORTS

**Open Badminton Tournament**  
IT is with great pleasure that we once again give this open invitation to all badminton players in Kuwait to take part in the annual Open Badminton Tournament.

The tournament will be held between Saturday, November 25th and Thursday November 30th, 1989 at the KOC Sports Centre, Ahmadi.

Timings for each day's play will be as follows:  
Saturday 25th, November through Wednesday 29th November (1900 hrs to 2200 hrs).

**Yoga morning classes**  
MESSIAH Beach Hotel yoga morning classes will commence Tuesday, November 28, at 9.30 am, 5 classes KD 10/- to register contact 5624111 ext 739/751.

## Magic leaves Carmel awed

By Peter D'Souza  
Arab Times staff

MORE than a thousand school children, pushing and screaming, occupied the Le Mirage Hall at the Ramada Al Salam Hotel on Thursday to watch Marco the Magician perform his magic show.

The children who were from the Carmel School came like an avalanche and occupied the seats.

Marco arrived in Kuwait on Nov 8 and performed two magic shows for the public at the Granada cinema. Thereafter he was supposed to go to Bahrain and Dubai with his show but postponed due to technical reasons. Instead he is performing at various schools in Kuwait for the benefit of children. The organisers say the magic shows in schools are a big success.

Commenting on the suggestion in the Arab Times, Nov 11, that his show would create excitement if he babbled like Paul Daniels, Marco said he has no intention to mimic him. "I am different from other magicians, and I like to remain so," he said.



Marco

### ARTS

**Islamic Art**  
A SIX week — 12 lecture course on Islamic Art will be given in English at the Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah on Sunday and Tuesday mornings from 10.00 — 12.00 noon. October 29 through December 5, 1989.

An eight week — eight lecture course on Islamic Art will be given in Arabic at the Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah on Monday afternoons from 4.00 — 6.00 pm from October 30 through December 19, 1989.

To register for either of these courses please sign up at the Dar Al Athar during museum hours 8.30 am — 12.30 pm.

**Watercolour Painting**  
LEARN watercolour painting with Patricia Mills. New 8 week course in Drawing & Painting for adults. For details tel: 5618847.

**Seminar**  
THERE will be a seminar at the DAA on "Arabic & European Art in the Light of Zodiacal Symbolism" December 10, 1989 — January 10, 1990. Sunday and Tuesday 11.00 — 12.30 am. Anyone wishing to register for this seminar may do so at the DAA during museum hours.

**Islamic painting in India**  
ROBERT Skelton, a former keeper of the India Department at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London will give a public lecture on Islamic Painting in India.

The lecture will be held on Wednesday, 29th November, 1989 at 6.00 pm at the Kuwait National Museum Lecture Theatre. The lecture, which is in English, is open to all.

### SOCIAL

**Shared Meia**  
AFTER successfully organising Deep-Dewali Satskara is now going to organise Shared Meia at Indian Arts Circle, Funaitees on 1st December 1989, at 10.00 am. There will be food stalls of delicious cuisines along with fun and games stalls for children. The big attraction will be two Grand Rattle Draws with a Game of Bingo. For entry passes and further information contact, Brij Vallabh - 2510146, or V.K. Agarwal - 5728621.

**Kuwait Cultural Centre**  
THE Kuwait Cultural Centre is opening a French Language course to be held on

Saturdays and Mondays. For further detail please contact 5624393.

**Yuletide Fayre**  
Do not miss the Yuletide Fayre being organised by St Paul's Church, Ahmadi from 2 pm to 5 pm on the afternoon of Friday, 1st December at the British embassy compound. There will be stalls for Christmas gifts, handicrafts and books as well as for cakes and preserves. There will be entertainment, including Santa Claus, for the children. Refreshments will be available.

**Jazz Night**  
NOV 29: In response to overwhelming demand, once again Phil Thomas and the "High Spirits" will be extending their "Jazzical" repertoire for your enjoyment. From 8pm to 12 midnight. Phone: 5640981.

**Musical Show**  
DEC 1: Musical entertainment show at Doha Entertainment City in "Starlight Theatre" with live rock 'n' roll, pop and reggie music from the most popular dynamic groups of Kuwait: "Top Ranks" and "Stepping Stones."

**X'mas tree '89**  
CHRISTMAS is for children, and what better way than to celebrate it with the New Goans Overseas Association at the Ramada Al Salam Hotel (the new Al-Mirage Ballroom) on the 15th of December 1989. Highlights include "carol singing competition" (4 local schools participating) games for children, novelty dance and music by the Stepping Stones. Santa Claus will be distributing gifts to all the kids. For reservations contact Anthony on tel: 5621968 (after 6.00 pm) or Julio.

**Konkani Drama**  
THE New Goans Overseas Association are pleased to announce Menino De Bandar's "Sousarant Astana Diat" a Konkani play which will be held in the Indian Arts Circle (Funaitees) on the 16th of February 1990. The cast all from Goa includes M. Boyer, C. D'Silva, Betty Naz, Junior Rod, Rosario Dias. Plans open in early January.

**Canadian Women's League**  
DEC 2: An invitation is extended to all Canadian women to attend this month's meeting to be held Saturday, December 2 from 4 to 6 pm in Jabriya. For more information please call 2511451 or 5315655.

**IAC Children's Competition**  
THE dates of finals of the Children's Competition will take place at IAC Funaitees on 13th, 14th, 15th, 27th and 28th December '89 and 18th January '90 respectively. For more details contact Indian Schools, British Council.

**STORY time: Thursday, 30 Nov. 10.30 am.** Come and enjoy the magic of books with a professional story teller. Children of all nationalities of ages 3 - 7 are invited. Please book seats by calling 2515512; 2533204; 2533227.

**Rajda and Rajda**  
INDIA'S finest Kuchipudi Dancers Dr. Rajda and Dr. Rajda Rajda are going to present their dance performance on 7th and 8th of December at Indian Arts Circle Auditorium. For details please contact 3904817.

**Hobby centre**  
New Courses in Jewellery making and design for adults. For children there is Pottery starting next month for 6 weeks. Tel: 5618847, 5317354.

**Steps Ballet School**  
DEC 9: At the Kuwait English School at 6pm to 7.30pm, the Steps Ballet School will stage a display showing the Royal Academy of Dance's graded syllabus work, performed by the students. If you are interested at watching this display with your daughter, please ring 5386481 9-12 noon only and request seats. Seats are limited to guests, and early booking is advisable. There is no charge but guests must be booked in advance. Registration for January 1990 is now ongoing for girls aged 4-15 years.

**Carnival Night**  
The long waited Carnival Night will be held for the first time in Kuwait with popular bands "Top Ranks" and "Perfect Strangers" vibrating up the Carnival Spirit to bring out their best music ever. So all you folks look ahead for more details through this column for the precise date in the month of February, 1990.

**Kuwait Goans**  
DEC 15: Annual children's X'mas tree function will be held at the Messiah Beach Hotel on Friday, December 15, '89 from 9.30 am onwards. Lots of prizes and surprises awaits for one and all. Top Ranks in attendance.

To avoid disappointment call for your early bookings on 2413348.

**Araliya Restaurant Singing Contest**  
To all of you who love singing!!!

DEC 1: Grand Final of the Autumn Sing-Along Contest at 6.30 pm.

DEC 3: Every Friday and Sunday 6.30 and 7.30 respectively, there will be the Christmas Carols Sing-Along Contest. The grand final will be on Friday December 22, with surprise gifts. Rush register your name and song title on 2402540 or 2428284.

**Children's competition at IAC**  
THE result of the qualifying round of the children's competition held in Indian Arts Circle were already announced on 17-11-1989. The results are displayed in all schools and Indian Arts Circle. The finals will take place on 30-11-89, 15-12-89, 27-12-89, 28-12-89 at Indian Arts Circle. For more information please contact on telephone nos. 3904817 or 5622559.

**Fancy Dress Competition**  
THE joint annual family get together of incredible S.C. and Young Men Cultural Association on Dec 8th, starting at 9.30 am sharp has been shifted from the earlier venue to the Kuwait Regency Palace for the convenience of all members. Live music will be provided by Top Ranks, free gifts from Santa and also a fancy dress competition starting at 10.30 am sharp. Lots of prizes and surprises too! Members may collect their passes from the Managing Committee or contact Joe on 3981790 or Satu 3921712.

**Exhibition**  
AN exhibition of superb replica of trees and plants which uniquely couple lifelike fabric foliage with natural trunks and branches. Select for more than 20 different varieties of plants and trees for the size space. On display at the lower lobby of the Kuwait International Hotel. Details at: 2407029.

**Sinbad the Sailor**  
KUWAIT Little Theatre, Ahmadi, proudly present their traditional pantomime extravaganza — Sinbad the Sailor. Tickets are now on sale at reasonable prices for the following performances: Gala Night 5th Dec at 7 pm, Evening performances on 6th and 13th Dec at 7 pm. Matinee performances on 7th, 8th, 14th and 15th Dec at 2 and 5 pm. Ring 3919759 NOW to avoid disappointment.

**Kalpak's Symposium**  
THE Kalpak (Kerala Arts & Literature Promoting Association of Kuwait) is organising a symposium on "The Impact of Literature on the Socio Cultural Developments" which will be held on 8.12.89 at 4 pm in the Indian embassy hall.

We are pleased to invite the Malayali society in Kuwait for their active participation. Kalpak scholarships declared for the two young talented artists will also be awarded on this occasion by Varghese G, first secretary of Embassy of India.

**GCA nite**  
LOOK out for the notice for Eid celebrations organized by the GOA Cultural Association at the Ramada Al Salam.

**Xmas celebrations**  
DEC 15: United Goan's Centre will have their annual X'mas celebrations at the Al Salam Hotel on Friday December 15th '89 from 10 am onwards (Al Deira). Special package of fun, games awaits the young as well as the old. A variety of entertainment for the children. Call on us for early booking and avoid disappointment. Contact Tony: 2612024/ Moses: 224293.

**Laser Sailing at KSSC**  
HAMPPEL/Khorafat open dingy regatta on Nov 30 and Dec 1. Open to Lasers, 470's and Keelboats. Sailors wishing to compete please contact the following for further details: D. Clark: 4845171 (O), 2451791 (H) or R. Brown: 4736167 (O), 5325139 (H). Briefing times: 30/11 at 14.30 hrs and 1/12 at 08.00 hrs.

**Ladies International League**  
UPCOMING EVENTS: Newcomers meeting: Monday 27th November '89, from 9.30 am to 12 noon in the Blue Room at the Sheraton Hotel. There will be a very small charge at the door. For further details please call Ann 5316905.

**SECOND GENERAL MEETING:** Our programme will be a winter party and mini bazaar, in Ballroom A at the Sheraton Hotel 7pm - 10pm on Tuesday 5th December '89. There will be a small charge at the door. All ladies are welcome. Please no children. Raffle, door prizes as well as lots of other prizes too. For further details please call Ann 5316905 or Dianne 5335598.

**Daniella Children's Party**  
ALL Dances in Kuwait are invited for the annual chil-

dren's party "Juletrae" to be held at the Gazelle Club on Friday December 15 at 3 pm. Tickets to be purchased from Inge on 3727688 ext 207 or Winnie on 5733382 before December 10.

**Filipino Choral Group**  
DEC 16: The spirit of Christmas is just around the corner and the Filipino Choral Group in its traditional bid to bring cheer, love and goodwill to all Christians in Kuwait will present a 30-minute repertoire of English and Filipino Christmas carols on December 16, 5 pm at the Holy Family Cathedral.

This prelude to the first day of Misa de Gallo is organized by Ed Oraa and to be conducted by Hilda Navarro-both working as medical technologists in Farwaniya Hospital.

**December Delights**  
DEC 8: Expatriates Club announces its Yuletide gala-social for children and adults at the SAS Tent Hotel from 09.30 hours onwards. Gifts for all children, fancy dress, hamper prizes, lunch buffet, gifts, prizes and surprises from the sponsors and the club. Book early for table reservations. Wilson 3918938, Val 5614506 (after 4 pm) and Tony 5655056 (after 5 pm). Music by Stepping Stones.

**German Speaking Cultural Association**

WE want to inform all our German speaking society and their friends about two forth coming events. The first will be the WINTER GALA at the Kuwait Sheraton Hotel in the Grand Ballroom on Wednesday November 29 at 8.00 pm. It will include an exquisite buffet and valuable prizes. Tickets are available at the German and Austrian embassies, the German school, the German library, and on the 29th from the Sheraton from 7 pm onwards.

The second event will be our traditional BAZAAR for all with beautiful handicrafts. This will be on November 30 at 5 pm in the Kuwait International Hotel's Old Failaka Room.

**Star Nite**  
DEC 21: Star Nite Stepping Stones have stepped in and it's going to be a nite to celebrate Yulide. Fun fare for children and variety programme for others starting from 5-8.30 pm and goes on from 9 pm until sumptuous buffet mid-nite. A



# BUSINESS & FINANCE

Iraq offers more freedom to Arab investors: Saleh

## Al Saquer hails strong Kuwait-Iraq ties

By M.C. Bose  
Business editor

**VISITING** Iraqi Commerce Minister, Dr. Mohammad Mahdi Saleh, emphasised the importance of strong and improved economic ties between Iraq and Kuwait and the important results such relations could achieve.

Speaking at a seminar on investments in Iraq held yesterday at the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the minister said that from now and for the next 10 years, the Iraqi market will work for the benefit of the investors. He stressed that projects of the investment projects in Iraq will be sold at encouraging prices and he said there won't be any recession problems. He said that the new Iraqi investment law has provided more freedom to Arab investors in investment in agricultural and industrial projects. He stressed that investors do not enter any investment project until they are well assured of the success of their projects in any country in the world and the new investment law in Iraq provides and guarantees this success.

He added that the scarcity of certain Iraqi commodities and the high price with Iran forced the government to gradually reduce imports, but gave more freedom to private sector to supply the market with various



Al Saquer (centre) pictured with Dr. Mohammad Mahdi Saleh and Faisal Al Khaled.

products. He said that the rate of subsidy which Iraq offers to any Arab or Iraqi investor is high, and said government has given a privilege to the agricultural sector so as to concentrate on main products such as grains.

The Iraqi investment law was issued in April 1988 by the Iraqi Revolutionary Council for the Arab investments in Iraq.

Saleh's address was followed by a speech delivered by the chairman of Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry Abdul Aziz Al Saquer in which he outlined the main principles of

Kuwait foreign investments. Al Saquer predicted that the new Iraqi investment law will result in making Iraq a home for a pioneering experiment within the framework of Arab investment co-operation.

But, Al Saquer said: "Only pure economic matters prevent the commencement of such an experiment" and hoped that the seminar would throw light on them.

He hailed the strong and historical relations between Iraq and Kuwait at all levels and in all fields. He added that Kuwait had

suffered a lot from the Iraq-Iran war. It was also greatly influenced by the war on the political, economic and security fields to the extent it became the third most harmed country in the Gulf war, quickly began to play its distinguished role in the process of development and construction after the end of the war.

He said that the holding of the Iraqi trade fair in Kuwait, which will be followed by a similar Kuwaiti trade fair in Iraq, was the beginning for this Kuwaiti role.

Al Saquer said that the



Dr. Saleh, Al Khaled and others visit trade fair at the Fair Ground in Mishref area.

Kuwaiti investors gained a rich experience in the investment field over the past 25 years by being involved in investments in various countries and under different systems, and experienced "sweet lessons some times, and bitter ones many other times."

He added that the Kuwaiti investors want to use their experience in the interest of their country, Kuwait, and the interests of the Arab investments in general and investments in Iraq in particular.

He said that the Kuwaiti investment experiment in foreign

investments in general and Arab investments in particular, had now developed a number of principles in concern with their country Kuwait on one hand, and other Arab countries, on the other.

Concerning Kuwait, Al Saquer said that the investment returns had now become the second source of income after oil, and as oil resources were on their way to vanish one day, investment returns were like "the flowing river" and therefore important.

Thus, Al Saquer insisted, the

major and future important role of foreign investments makes the safety of capital and the high economic and financial returns on it, the most important standards in deciding investments and distributing them.

He said that the more attractive returns achieved for investors and the host country, the more investments became stable and well-established.

Al Saquer also said that Kuwait wanted to make its foreign investments sector not isolated from the other sectors of the national economy.

He said that although the main concern here was Kuwait's private investments in co-operation and partnership with the Iraqi private and joint venture sectors, it should be remembered that such investments will always remain in need of the support and protection of governments in both countries.

In relation to principles of Kuwaiti investments in the Arab world, Al Saquer said that Kuwaiti investments always complied with the goals of development and in ensuring prosperity in the Arab country hosting the investments.

He said that Arab investments in foreign countries represent an abnormal situation imposed by the conditions of fragmentation in the Arab world. This abnormal situation was further strengthened by some economic

measures.

Al Saquer said that if we even keep aside the Arab national factors and depend upon pure economic standards, we will still find that the investment of Arab funds in Arab countries is the best and most profitable way of investment, concerning the financial returns as well as contributing to Arab social security.

He said that the true standard of judging the investment atmosphere in any Arab country, was the confidence and trust of the people of that country in their national economy. He stressed that no Arab investor will have trust in the facilities provided to him by investment laws in any other Arab country, as long as these laws did not provide the same, if not better facilities to the people of that country.

Al Saquer affirmed that the Kuwaiti investor in any Arab country, did not aim at making profits only, although this fact was very important, and did not wish to have concessions and facilities at the cost of his brothers in that country.

The Kuwaiti investors wanted to co-operate with their Arab brothers in funds and efforts to ensure a better future for both peoples.

Later Kuwait's Commerce and Industry Minister, Faisal Al Khaled and Saleh opened the Iraqi trade fair at the International Fair Ground in Mishref area.

Alshall weekly market review

## Market indices dip

**THE** Alshall Index for Kuwaiti shareholding companies closed on Wednesday Nov 22, 1989 an average of 4,040 points with a decrease of 0.3 point—0.73 per cent from last week's average of Wednesday Nov 15, 1989. The Alshall Index for non-Kuwaiti shareholding companies reached 66.06 with a decrease of 1.03 point—1.54 per cent—for the same period, according to Alshall weekly market review.

The trading volume for Kuwaiti shares reached 28.05 million shares at a daily average of 4.61 million shares with a decrease of 29 per cent from the previous week's daily average of 6.51 million shares.

Non-Kuwaiti traded shares reached 1.70 million shares at a daily average of 0.34 million shares with a decrease of 82 per cent from last week's daily average of 1.94 million shares.

The value of Kuwaiti traded shares was KD7.50 million at a daily average of KD1.50 million, a decrease of 28 per cent from last week's average of KD2.08 million. The value of non-Kuwaiti traded shares was KD0.075 million at a daily average of KD0.015 million, a decrease of 82 per cent from last week's daily average of KD0.082 million.

For the Kuwaiti shares market, the banking sector came first at 62 per cent of total trading against 60 per cent last week. The Commercial Bank had the lead at 34 per cent followed by the Gulf Bank at 20 per cent and the National Bank of Kuwait at 15 per cent. The investment sector came second at 24 per cent in which Coast Investment and Development Company had the lead at 72 per cent followed by National Investment Company at 14 per cent and Kuwait Investment Projects Company at 11 per cent.

The real estate sector came third at 7 per cent in which United Realty had the lead at 42 per cent followed by Kuwait Pearl Real Estate at 27 per cent and Kuwait Real Estate Company at 21 per cent. As for the non-Kuwaiti shares market, Bahrain International Bank had the lead at 43 per cent followed by Arabian General Investment Company (SHUAA) at 33 per cent and Umm Al Quain Cement Company at 14 per cent.

The market showed signs of decrease after several weeks of activity which was reflected on all indices and in both markets. This was expected as market dealers tend to buy and sell in short terms in order to avoid a decrease in share prices. These decisions to buy and sell are seldom related to the actual performance of companies but are a result of events or government declarations and aim at quick profits.

Market observers are expecting the implementation of certain laws aiming at activating the economy, which concern the persons under the debt settlement programme together with a direct support of the local share market. However, as is clear from the report of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, recommendations have been made. The report, on the other hand, recommends the liquidation or major reorganisation of companies that face major problems, a measure that has been avoided for a long period of time.

"We believe that there will be no market credibility, or market-makers that can operate with a normal degree of risk, or active funds and portfolios, unless such action is taken. Any solution requires time to have its effects and there are no instant solutions that would produce immediate results as some might expect," the report said.

Kuwait shareholding companies index

22/11/89 15/11/89

Change points

Banking Sector

The National Bk 124.96 124.96 —

The Gulf Bk 32.81 33.25 -0.44

The Comm. Bk 24.59 24.59 —

Al Ahli Bk 37.34 37.34 —

Bk of Kt & ME 32.38 33.31 -0.94

Kuwait R. Est. Bk 31.29 31.29 —

Burgan Bk 27.06 27.06 —

Kt Finance House 87.34 87.34 —

Real Estate Sector

Kuwait Inv. Co. 11.02 14.69 -3.67

Kt. Int. Inv. Co. 8.59 8.59 —

IFA 29.34 29.34 —

Comm. Facilities 154.00 154.00 —

National Inv. 54.90 55.88 -0.98

Kt. Inv. Proj. 91.01 91.01 —

Coast Inv. & Dev. 100.00 102.35 -2.35

Sector Index 33.77 35.47 -1.70

Ins. Sector

Kt. Ins. Co. 40.07 40.07 —

Gulf Ins. Co. 25.00 25.00 —

Al Ahlia Ins. Co. 50.33 50.33 —

Warba Ins. Co. 54.12 57.56 -3.44

Sector Index 38.54 38.72 -0.18

Real Est. Sec.

Kt. Real Est. 16.06 16.57 -0.51

Utd. Realty 5.16 5.22 -0.06

Nat. Real Est. 37.43 37.43 —

Pearl of Kt. 71.43 71.43 —

Sector Index 16.48 16.88 -0.17

Ind. Sector

Kt. Cmt. Co. 10.91 10.91 —

Ref. Ind. 84.55 84.55 —

Gulf Cables 116.52 116.52 —

Kt. Pharm. 62.22 62.22 —

Sector Index 28.80 28.80 —

Services Sector

Kt. Cmpt. Co. 157.68 151.20 6.48

Kt. Cinema Co. 8.56 8.56 —

Pub. Whousg Co. 66.67 66.67 —

Kt. Comm. M. Co. 34.99 34.99 —

M. Tele. Syst. 342.86 342.86 —

Sector Index 60.17 60.85 -0.12

Food Sector

L. Trad. & Transp. 28.89 28.89 —

Utd Fisheries 11.33 11.33 —

Kt. Utd Poultry 110.01 110.01 —

Kt. Food Co. 75.86 77.01 -1.15

Sector Index 38.83 40.68 -0.20

Overall Index 41.04 41.34 -0.30

Non-Kuwaiti shareholding companies index

22/11/89 15/11/89

Change points

First G. Bk. 223.68 223.68 —

Bah. Intl. Bk. 86.90 88.38 -1.38

Bah. M.E. Bk. 92.07 94.92 -2.85

A. Gen. Inv. (Shua) 43.18 43.18 —

Umm Al Q. Cmt. 17.62 18.00 -0.37

G. Med. Projs. 25.25 25.25 —

Total Index 68.86 67.88 1.03

—Base period 31/12/1982.

—All the companies listed by the Stock Exchange under non-Kuwaiti companies are included.

## Lukman plea for Opec unity to meet challenge

Oil producers may raise overall output quota

**VIENNA, Nov 25, (Opecna):** Opec member countries must ensure that the organisation rises to the challenge of the 1990s and successfully achieves "an orderly, equitably balanced international oil market," Opec president Alhaji Riluwanu Lukman said here today.

In his opening address to the 86th meeting of the Opec conference, Lukman said this could not be done unless "we are all prepared to enter a new era of unity in which the greater good of the organisation takes precedence over the specific interests of our individual member countries — at all times and without exception."

He reminded the oil and energy ministers of the 13 member countries

of Opec's founding principles, one of which states: "The principal aim of the organisation shall be the co-ordination and unification of the petroleum policies of member countries and the determination of the best means for safeguarding their interests, individually and collectively."

Lukman, who is Nigerian minister of petroleum resources, maintained that "the tide has turned" and that a more structured approach to managing the international oil market would become a feature of the next decade.

This, he affirmed, would be facilitated by the continued loosening up of the rigid "free market" philosophies adopted by some lead-

ing industrialised nations over the past decades as well as "the furtherance of the spirit of glasnost which is pulling down the barriers which have divided East and West since the Second World War."

Lukman pointed out that "we have all learned from our experiences in the turbulent 1980s" that continued confrontation and anarchy in the international oil market "is ultimately to the benefit of no one — and least of all to the future of the finite commodity we are seeking to utilise in the optimal manner."

"Three" longstanding "impediments" to such unity had dwindled into "relative insignificance" over the past two to three years, he said. Non-Opec oil producers were now

more willing to co-operate with Opec, oil demand had increased to a level whereby 21 million bpd of Opec oil could easily be absorbed by the market in 1990 and the cessation of hostilities between founder members Iran and Iraq, which had "already created an atmosphere for a more conducive and constructive dialogue within our organisation."

He said all member countries agreed in principle on the need to reach a "realistic, binding agreement" but the real point at issue remained the devising of a system of "quota" distribution which received the wholehearted support of all member states.

"An effective pricing and production agreement will pave the way for

a smooth entry into the 1990s — into an era in which the international oil industry will meet a new set of challenges to take it into the 21st century," he said.

The minister commended the attitude displayed by many major non-Opec oil producers over the past 12 months. On numerous occasions, they had publicly declared their support for a united approach to some form of market direction, while some had gone as far as reducing planned output levels in solidarity with Opec.

The Middle East Economic Survey today reported optimism at the Opec ministerial meeting in Vienna over a possible settlement redistributing members' oil production quotas.

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## Coffee talks produce hopes of deal

**KAMPALA, Nov 25, (Reuters):** Hopes have emerged from five days of coffee talks in Kampala that growers and buyers can negotiate a deal to control supplies and reverse this year's price crash.

Alexandre Beltrao, the executive director of the 74-nation International Coffee Organisation (ICO), says this would mean some hard bargaining.

The (possible) negotiations will not be easy," he told the annual meeting of the 25-nation Intra-Africa Coffee Organisation (IACO) in Kampala.

"No-one should be under any illusions about that," he

said in an address made public after the five-day, closed-door conference ended yesterday.

Beltrao and the chairman of the ICO council, James Wapakhabulo, were flying to Indonesia today to attend a meeting of Asian and Pacific producers next week.

The tone of the African and Asia-Pacific talks, with that of a meeting this week of South and Central American growers in Costa Rica, would enable Wapakhabulo to gauge whether there was a consensus that talks on a new coffee pact should be held.

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## BUSINESS

## West 'must increase food aid to Poland'

BRUSSELS, Nov 25, (AP): The European Economic Community Commission said yesterday the West must increase food aid to Poland to help Poles make it through the winter.

The EEC Commission announced the need for more supplies for Poland after a meeting of officials from 24 Western nations that are granting economic and food aid to Poland and Hungary.

The commission is co-ordinating an international aid effort for Poland and Hungary involving the 12 EEC nations and a dozen other countries, including the United States, Canada, Japan and Australia.

Yesterday, officials from these countries met for the third time since Aug 1 to take stock of aid already committed.

The commission said more than a third of the \$370 million in food aid pledged to Poland has been delivered and the remainder will be sent before year's end.

It added most of the donor nations have lifted restriction on Polish and Hungarian imports.

Officials said the donor nations have pledged some \$6.5 billion in food and economic aid, including 2.8 billion from the EEC and a billion from the United States.

They offered this rough outline:

- \$443.8 million in food aid for Poland;
- About \$1 billion in development aid — including funds for management training and environmental protection programmes — for both Poland and Hungary;
- \$470 million toward a currency stabilization fund for Poland;
- \$4.3 billion in investment credits for both Hungary and Poland;
- \$211 million in "other credits" for Poland, including \$144 million for joint ventures.

Some 340 joint ventures have already been set up in Hungary and 320 in Poland with Western aid, officials said.

## Bahrain to build copper tube plant

BAHRAIN, Nov 25, (Reuters): Bahrain will build a 14 million dinar (\$37-million) copper tube plant, the first of its kind in the region, industry sources said today.

Abdulla Al Kobaisi — head of the Bahraini firm behind the project — said the plant would have an initial capacity of 12,000 tonnes of tubing a year, expandable to 20,000 tonnes.

France's Boliden Cuivre Et Zinc would take a 49 per cent stake in the joint-venture firm for the project — Boliden Al Kobaisi copper industry — he said.

Work would begin by the end of 1989 and take 18 months to complete. Tractebel engineering international of Belgium would carry out construction of the plant with the help of local contractors, Kobaisi said.

## Currency rates

KUWAIT, Nov 25, (Kuna): Following are the international currency rates as quoted by local banks and announced by the Central Bank of Kuwait yesterday.

	Buying	Selling
US dollar	0.29687	0.29802
Sterling	0.463414	0.466103
DM	0.164653	0.165658
S.Fr	0.184276	0.185315
F.Fr	0.048287	0.048553
I.Lira	0.0002230	0.0002250
Jap.yen	0.002065	0.002079
Bah.din	0.787244	0.790818
UAE Dir.	0.080791	0.081160
S.Riyal	0.079123	0.079493
Q.Riyal	0.081312	0.079493
O.Riyal	0.770790	0.774480

## Interest Rates

KUWAIT, Nov 25, (Kuna): Following are the average KD interest rates of local interbank transactions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait yesterday.

Period	Rate	Offered
1 month	8-9/16	8-9/16
3 months	8-9/16	8-9/16
6 months	8-9/16	8-9/16
1 year	8-9/16	8-9/16

## EXCHANGE RATES

Indian rupee	17.660
Sri Lankan rupee	7.540
Pakistani rupee	14.060
Bangladesh taka	9.150
US dollar	29790
Pound sterling	46700
UAE dirham	08108
Deutsche mark	16570
Japanese yen	002083

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## Japan, Malaysia and S. Korea seek better trade ties

RANGOON, Nov 25, (UPI): Japan, Malaysia and South Korea are ready for better economic relations with Burma's military government, Trade Minister Col. David Abel said Friday after a tour of the three countries.

Abel told reporters his trip had given Malaysia, South Korea and Japan a clearer understanding of the situation in Burma, and that all of them have expressed eagerness for closer economic and trade co-operation with Burma.

He said, however, that he was queried about the continuing detentions of political leaders, including top opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, throughout his 13-day tour.

The minister said he was assured the interest in Aung San Suu Kyi, who has been held under house arrest since July 20, did not reflect any intention to

## Wall Street watch

## Markets get boost from Federal Reserve

NEW YORK, Nov 25, (AP): Wall Street analysts say the Federal Reserve appears to have grown a bit more aggressive lately in its efforts to cushion the impact of a slowing economy.

The US central bank gave evidence just before the Thanksgiving holiday Thursday that it was taking further steps to relax its credit policy.

For the second time this month, it engaged in manoeuvres that encouraged a decline in short-term interest rates.

The earlier easing didn't cause much of a stir, analysts say, partly because it didn't touch off any dramatic moves in the bank prime lending rate. But the latest actions by the central bank might

"make a bigger splash," said Douglas Schindewolf at Smith-Barney, Harris Upham and Co.

"If the Fed is trying to reduce general recession fears, the policy move in early November seems to have fallen short," he observed. "In order to reach general psychology, the easing would need to grab the headlines."

That may come soon, he suggested, in the form of a general reduction in the prime rate. Talk also has spread on the street that the Fed might reinforce its message by lowering the discount rate, the charge it sets on loans to private financial institutions.

The latest developments don't necessarily signal that Alan Greenspan, the

Fed's chairman, has abandoned the gradualist style that has become his trademark, observers say.

Nor do Wall Streeters think the central bank has dropped its campaign against inflation as economic enemy No. 1.

But "inflation — the Fed's top priority — is contained," said Maury Harris, economist at PaineWebber Inc. "Recession risks have risen."

If all goes right, analysts say, the Fed will be able to bring off the much-ballyhooed "soft landing" for the economy as 1990 begins, letting interest rates fall and setting the stage for renewed expansion later on.

But some doubts persist that it can achieve that tricky feat. "Signs of a downturn are in view," contends Erich Heinemann at Ladenburg, Thalmann and Co.

"Mr Greenspan has responded to the softening in the economy. He has also responded to heavy-handed pressure from the Bush administration, which is worried about the prospect of further Democratic gains in the congressional elections in 1990."

Whatever the motivations, stock and bond traders found a lot to like in the Fed's latest actions.

After getting off to a weak start, the Dow Jones average of 30 industrials rose 22.89 to 2,675.55 in the past week. The New York Stock Exchange composite index gained 1.01 to 190.29, while the Nasdaq composite index for the over-the-counter market slipped .09 to 456.63 and the American Stock Exchange market value index fell .21 to 373.14.

Volume on the Big Board averaged 127.02 million shares a day during the holiday-shortened week, against 147.69 million the week before.

"The most recent economic reports confirm that business activity is slowing," said analysts at Wright Investors' Service, a Bridgeport, Connecticut, investment management firm, in their

latest appraisal of the outlook.

"A further easing of inflation pressures and lower interest rates appear to be reasonable expectations for the months ahead."

That looks like a recipe for higher bond prices, at least among top-quality securities such as treasury bonds. But opinions remain sharply divided on what it might mean for the stock market.

"Corporate earnings are forecast to decline," Wright said. "We expect that earnings disappointments will increasingly overpower the interest rate downward as a determinant of stock prices, taking them lower in the process."

## Experts discuss UN development activities

## Call to reactivate economic growth

UNITED NATIONS, Nov 25, (Opcena): Developing countries on Thursday called for reactivating economic growth in the south for self-reliance.

Discussing United Nations operational activities for development, Indonesian delegate Zainudin Nasution said given the rapidly changing economic environment, the UN system should increase its relevance and effectiveness.

Speaking to the General Assembly's economic committee, he said the primary role of the operational activities was to promote the development and self-reliance of the developing countries through multilateral co-operation, while enhancing their national capacities.

Concerted efforts should be made to support the central objective of strengthening

national capacity-building, Nasution said, stressing that attention must be paid to the efforts of the developing countries to design and manage their national programmes, and to co-ordinate into those programmes all external assistance.

The Indonesian delegate said that the challenge for the organisations engaged in operational activities for development was to find more effective ways to forge links between universally-agreed objectives such as capacity-building and the programmes and projects undertaken at national and regional levels. National execution of projects should become the principal means of project implementation. Increased procurement from developing countries would also promote self-generating development.

Limited and insufficient resources had undermined the already-restricted capacity of operational activities to make their full impact on development, he said. Notwithstanding promising changes in the political sphere, the results of the recent pledging conference for development activities had not met the expectations of developing countries.

Nasution said the country programming process had served as a useful tool for improving linkages between development co-operation programmes, but because of the limited resources, the primary focus should be to support the recipient countries in strengthening and managing their development co-operation programmes. This approach should be further enhanced with a greater

emphasis on government-led programming. The United Nations system should improve the provision of integrated, multi-sectoral and sectoral advice at the field level.

Nigerian delegate M. E. Ekong said the fundamental sources of strength and attraction of the operational activities system were in the neutrality, impartiality and an absence of conditionality. Reinforcement of those aspects, in addition to flexibility and multilateralism, which were essential to the preservation of the integrity of the operational activities system.

The impact of individual countries of the global development challenges of the 1990s would vary, the Nigerian delegate said.



Reception to envoy

Mohammed Merchant, managing partner of Messrs. Hassan Jowhar Hayat Sons Co. — building material division hosted a dinner party at his residence in Mishrif to welcome Arun Budhiraja, the Indian ambassador and Mrs Budhiraja. The party was well attended by his business friends and associates, including Kuwait lawyers and shipping company managers. Invitations were also extended to many ambassadors and dignitaries. Picture shows from (left to right) Mustapha, ambassador of Malaysia, Badrawi, ambassador of Lebanon, Zahid Saeed, ambassador of Pakistan, Arun Budhiraja, ambassador of India, Shareefuddin, ambassador of Sri Lanka, the host Mohammed Merchant and Ali Al Mughli.

## Genscher vows support for reforms

## Bonn minister visits Budapest

BUDAPEST, Hungary, Nov 25, (AP): West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher yesterday praised Hungary's reforms and said the West was interested in helping the reform process.

Genscher, who arrived Hungary on an official two-day visit Thursday, told journalists his country would "never forget that Hungary was the first to cut through the iron curtain."

Hungary in May 1989 began dismantling the barbed wire and other technical barriers along its Western border with Austria and took the unprecedented step in September of opening its border to allow tens of thousands of East Germans to cross legally to the West.

Since the upheaval in East Germany and that country's decision to open its own border, the exodus through Hungary has trickled to a handful. The open border between the two German states has led to considerable speculation about the possibility of a reunited Germany.

Hungarian Foreign Minister Gyula Horn said the question of reunification was "primarily up to the German people," but added that "it is hard to see a future United Europe with a divided Germany."

Genscher said the West does "not intend to draw one-sided advantage from the difficulties faced by the East European countries. We are interested in helping."

He said he planned to visit Moscow in early

December.

"We are seeking ways of helping (Soviet President Mikhail S.) Gorbachev's policies to be realised," he said.

The two foreign ministers, who have met three times already this year, both said they had high expectations for the summit next month between Gorbachev and US President George Bush.

"Hungary is interested in the radical transformation of her society politically, economically and socially and now there is the unprecedented chance when both the USSR and the US are equally interested in seeing these reforms succeed," Horn said at a joint news conference.

Genscher also met yesterday with Rezső Nyers, the leader of the new Socialist Party that was born out of the disbanded Communist Party, and with József Antall, the leader of Hungarian Democratic Forum, one of the most influential opposition groups.

On Thursday, Genscher held talks with Premier Miklós Nemeth.

The two delegations also signed a 500-million-mark (\$278-million) loan agreement to be used in helping to restructure Hungary's economy with greater market orientation.

West Germany is Hungary's largest trade partner after the Soviet Union.

## Gold rush delights Australian producers

CHICAGO, Nov 25, (AP): Gold's move up and over \$400 an ounce this past week was good fortune for gold producers down under.

The gold surge coincided with the Australian government's heavily promoted US launch of its redesigned 1-ounce gold and platinum bullion coins.

So perfectly did the events mesh that "it's almost as if someone is looking out for the Australians," said Bruce Kaplan, president of Kaplan and Co., a precious metals dealer in Santa Monica, California.

Analysts consistently have cited investment demand as the main factor behind gold's dramatic jump from less than \$360 an ounce since mid-September.

The rally gained speed after the stock market's 190-point tumble on Oct 13 and shifted into high gear this past week, cracking the psychologically important \$400 level on Tuesday with surprising ease.

"It kind of broke through \$400 and never looked back," said Fred Demler, metals economist with Drexel Burnham Lambert Inc. financial firm in New York.

Gold for December delivery on New York's Commodity Exchange settled at \$410.30 a troy ounce yesterday compared with \$395.80 a week earlier. Yesterday's price established a new high for the year.

December silver rose to \$5.88 a troy ounce from \$5.685 on the commodity exchange during the week while platinum for January delivery on the New York Mercantile Exchange climbed to \$544.70 a troy ounce from \$526.60.

Dealers say the rise in precious metal values has sparked a substantial increase in sales of gold bullion coins such as the US eagle, the Canadian maple leaf and the Australian nugget.

Representatives of Goldcorp Australia, a company formed by the Australian government to market the kangaroo nugget and its platinum counterpart, the koala, were in the United States promoting the newly redesigned coins when gold passed the \$400 milestone.

Goldcorp chairman Donald Mackay-Coghlin said that while he had no sales figures, "we have made very significant sales into the market. I'm delighted with the sales we've made."



Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, president of ASCA, addresses the press conference.

## ASCA's unique role under review

A PRESS conference was held yesterday on the occasion of the sixth annual general assembly of the Arab Society of Certified Accountants (ASCA), in which its President Talal Abu-Ghazaleh said "The Arab accounting profession is now ready to reap the fruits of six years of hard work and assiduous endeavours."

He was pointing out the fact that the Examination Supervisory Board will hold its first ever qualifying examinations in Arabic on November 28, 1989 simultaneously in five Arab countries — namely, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, the UAE and Bahrain. Abu-Ghazaleh added that this step will lead to qualifying Arab certified accountants who constitute a cornerstone in the future economic development of the Arab world.

Abu-Ghazaleh announced that ASCA is currently preparing for the Second Arab International Accounting Conference under the theme "Accounting and Development" which will be convened on March 1990 in Jordan under the patronage of Crown Prince Hassan Bin Talal.

The conference will be held with the participation of Arab Thought Forum (ATF), Jordanian Audit Bureau, The Higher Audit Council in Jordan and the Jordanian Association of Certified Public Accountants (JACPA).

The theme of the conference reflects the increasing awareness of the importance of accounting in economic and social development and its role in decision making across the whole of the Arab world. The conference aims at enunciating the future role of the Arab accounting profession and Arab accountants.

Abu-Ghazaleh pointed out that the conference will be held concurrently with the first meeting in an Arab country of the International Auditing Practices Committee (IAPC), to which ASCA has been elected as board member for five years as of 1987. He added that this will present a unique opportunity for dialogue and exchange of expertise between Arab professionals and their international counterparts.

ASCA president talked of the unique role of ASCA, especially after the Cairo Declaration on the importance of Arab non-

governmental organizations role in supporting the economic and social development of Arab countries.

Abu Ghazaleh listed some of the accomplishments of ASCA meeting during 1989, among which was his election as a member of the International Accounting Standards and Reporting (ISAR) of the UN, also his election as ASCA representative as a chairman of the IASC Subcommittee on developing and newly industrialised countries. He added that ASCA was also elected to an IASC subcommittee on "Understanding the Clients Business".

Abu Ghazaleh concluded the press conference by thanking Arab countries for the support they extended and its impact on the success of ASCA's efforts on both Arab and regional scenes. He emphasized that these achievements would not have been possible without the efforts of Arab professionals who put the interest of the profession above their own and made ASCA shine as the exponent of the accounting profession in the Arab World.

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# Storytellers cook up a story

Old art finds new audience

LONDON. (Reuters). Storytellers around the world, from Turkish minstrels to Celtic bards and New York raconteurs, are bringing one of mankind's oldest art forms to a new audience.

Blending literature, drama and music, 40 performers from 10 countries gathered in London this month for an international storytelling festival.

Some represent unbroken traditions stretching back to ancient times. Others create their own stories or delve into dusty volumes in search of long-forgotten legends. All are pulling in the crowds.

"It's really growing," said American Laura Simms, whose repertoire blends traditional African tales with stories of strange encounters on the New York subway.

Simms was among a handful of performers who began a US storytelling revival in the late 1960s and now stage regular festivals there. Today their stories are increasingly used for psychotherapy as well as for pure entertainment.

"Stories are as old as the world and they are the first psychotherapy. Stories are about the inner life of human beings and their relations to the world," said Simms.

In a gala event at the London festival, Simms shared the stage with performers from Turkey, France, Britain and Morocco.

British Robin Williamson spun ancient Celtic tales of heroic deeds, enriching their texture with shimmering harp music.

Frenchman Abbi Patrix recounted African stories, shocking in their violence and intensity, to a pounding rhythmic accompaniment of drums and cymbals.

One of a generation of young European storytellers, he says the revival of storytelling in many Western countries owes much to the rich culture of their immigrant communities.

"All the cultures we have tried to possess are now possessing us. It's like a boomerang," he said.

Simms and Patrix both say they inherited their love of stories from their mothers. Others learn their tales by word of mouth, through travel or by poring over old books.

Williamson says much of his material was written down in Latin in the Middle Ages. Patrix says his latest find is a Caucasian epic which he will perfect over the next three to four years and perform with a choir.

Ben Haggarty, who organised the London festival, specialises in folktales. "We collect largely from dusty volumes of 19th-century folklore where the stories sit couched in ghastly formal English, desecrated and very withered," he said.

"Our task is to reanimate these things and put them up in the air between people, which is where they should be."

Turkish minstrels provided one of the more exotic highlights of the gala concert. Seref Tasliova and Murat Cabanglu represent a medieval tradition in which apprentices spend up to seven years learning to play the six-stringed sazes and spontaneously compose rhyming verses on any subject.

The pair competed in bardic duels, vying to exchange insults in verse or placing pins in their mouths to prevent the use of certain syllables on pain of a pierce lip.

"They claimed divine inspiration for their art. 'It's divine, from Allah. If a minstrel becomes too confident or too proud, his inspiration sometimes leaves him halfway. If it's a contest, he is defeated by his opponents,'" Cabanglu said.

Most of the storytellers said they don't memorise their tales word for word but vary their delivery according to their mood and their audience.

For Haggarty, who sees much modern literature as introverted and self-indulgent, a live audience provides the acid test of a good story.

"If you look at a lot of literature today, it's written for a very small audience."



Max Franklin holds a picture of the late Bill McDougall, owner of the famous pub Ehomagah. Pub which typifies the spirits of Andamooka. (Reuters wirephoto)

# Lying low to get rich

Opals lure loners to Andamooka

ANDAMOOKA, Australia. (Reuters). "Most of us are running away from something — family, wives, money problems," says Max, clutching a cold can of beer in one hand and trying to keep his beat-up van on the rough desert road with the other.

"It's easy to hide up here. Everyone's known by their nickname — I don't know the surnames of half the town."

Andamooka is a good place to lie low. A fair way past the back of beyond, the township in the southern Australian outback has one road leading into it and only the trace of a track out the other side.

On a cool day the temperature hovers around 25 degrees Centigrade (77 Fahrenheit). During the summer the 250 inhabitants of Andamooka, surrounded by parched, rock-strewn wasteland — and why Max has kept coming back for 20 years — is simple.

Opals. Andamooka sits on one of the world's richest opal fields, and locals claim the gems that are carved out of German Gully and White Dam are the best quality opals in existence.

From the air the first sign of the settlement among the salt lakes and dark red earth is a line of white

hillocks, the remnants of 60 years of excavating and crushing the area's rock.

Opals were first discovered in Andamooka and Coober Pedy, also in south Australia, providing the lion's share.

Mining is a haphazard affair where luck, local knowledge and a "good nose" decide who will become an overnight millionaire.

Anyone willing to travel the 600 km (375 miles) from Adelaide can buy a claim measuring 100 metres (yards) by 50 for 30 dollars (\$25), pick a likely spot and start digging.

Miners formerly used shafts but modern bulldozers, costing around 90 dollars (\$70) an hour to hire, have speeded up the process. But opal mining remains the province of the small time operator.

"We've had companies in here with heavy equipment and drills but it doesn't work," said Max. "The only way you can do it is to walk behind the dozer and watch for that flash of opal amid rubble."

That flash can mean a lot of money. Rough opals can fetch up to 4,000 dollars (\$3,120) an ounce while polished, high quality gems earn up to 300 dollars (\$230) a carat.

newest opal gallery Mary Schultz will sell you a clear opal no bigger than a fingernail, flashing with a myriad of colours in the sunlight, for about 1,500 dollars (\$1,170).

Not surprisingly this lure of wealth attracts its share of sharks to a township where those who've made it live in air-conditioned bungalows and cool dugouts while the rest make do with converted buses and shacks.

"We've had buyers coming through with suitcases stuffed with money," Max says. "You show them what you've got, they pick out the eyes (best stones) when you're not looking and then tell you they're not interested."

But an outback town with four bars, a raging thirst and time on its hands does not need outsiders to stir up trouble.

Careering down the main street — a dry creek bed impassable after heavy rain — Max tells stories of the pink pussy bar "a plonky (cheap wine) pub where everything was bolted to the floor," and other drinking holes which mysteriously burnt down.

Was it lightning which caused the blazes, or something more sinister like arson and insurance scams?

# Work + work = Holiday

Time for idleness will be over in 1990s

PARIS. (Reuters). Forget the idle titillation of sun, sands, sea, surf and sex. For the average 1990s yuppie, holidays will be all work, work, work.

So says Gilbert Trigano, the chairman and driving force behind one of the world's most successful travel ventures, the Club Med, better known as Club Med.

"Holidays are no longer a time for emptiness, idleness. They have become a time for activity," he said in an interview.

A short, stockily-built man of 69, Trigano has the Frenchman's penchant for philosophical musings. But he also has an unusually good nose for changing social trends and an even canner ability to cash in on them.

Ever since its first camp sprouted into being 39 years ago — a field of windy tents in the Balearic islands — the Club Med has won a reputation for putting pleasure into leisure.

For an entire generation of holiday-makers, its resorts evoke palm-trees, topless beauties, tropical sands, midnight swims and romance — the easy-living hedonism that took root in the 1960s.

But Trigano now threatens to take at least some of the fun out of the 98 Club Med camps dotted across the globe.

"Holidays," he proclaims from his vast office overlooking the Paris bourse, "should help people understand what they are capable of doing — and should provide the means to do it."

Looking to the future, he sees a high-tech society in which professionals, equipped with computer terminals and telefax transmitters, will work from home but occasionally come face to face with colleagues at seminars in Club Med villages or hotels.

This new generation of executives, faced with a rapidly changing professional environment, will be forced to constantly learn new languages and new skills.

He predicts that in the space of a working life a successful professional may have to practise a dozen different jobs.

"During the past 30 years, holidays were a sort of breathing-space in a life cycle in which there was a time to learn, a time to work and a time to prepare for death," he said.

"Then, a few years ago, as they became a fact of life and grew longer and longer, we realised they were a time for activity, for sports or manual skills. Now they have also become a time for reflection, self-knowledge and self-advancement."

One out of every five Club Med villages already offers computer training courses, and its luxury Marbella site, in southern Spain, is described in the brochures as "a permanent computer campus."

But it is at home, in southwest France, that Trigano has launched his biggest experiment in the holiday of the year 2000.

In Opio, near the Riviera city of Cannes, the Club Med last summer opened a luxury resort that threatens to upset every commandment in the

company bible — while ringing in a steady flow of cash.

The golden rule of the prototype Club Med village was to isolate its "gentils members" — or clients — from the stress and strain of urban living. Telephones, television and newspapers were banned or kept at a discouraging distance.

"When I pedalled into town and back from a Club Med village in Africa to buy the newspapers, the organisers sniffed and said 'ah we have an intellectual'" said one recent holidaymaker.

Money was replaced with coloured beads and, to help the permanently cheerful staff to create a feeling of communion, the early Club Med resorts had few or no single rooms.

Opio, however, will be another kettle of fish. The 370-million-franc (60-million-dollar) resort has cable TV and single rooms with telephones connected to a fax and computer terminal network. The beads may one day be replaced by plastic cards.

Like the old exotic villages, many of the tables are set for eight, a delight for the socially gregarious who love community table talk. But for those who loathe this form of companionship, there are tables for two and a special restaurant for day-trippers.

While the complex continues to offer the Club Med's usual gamut of sporting and recreational activities, the big difference with its forbears is that only half the clients are expected to be holidaymakers.

The remainder, Trigano hopes, will come for training seminars or company meetings.

In seeking to attract company executives to work in the relaxed atmosphere of the typical Club Med village, Trigano says he hopes to increase his year-round clientele. "Our aim is to increase bookings."

Similar work-oriented resorts are planned for France and complexes in Morocco and Turkey are now being converted to attract the yuppies of tomorrow.

But the philosopher of the leisure industry of the 1990s is also tapping what appears to be an increasingly lucrative market.

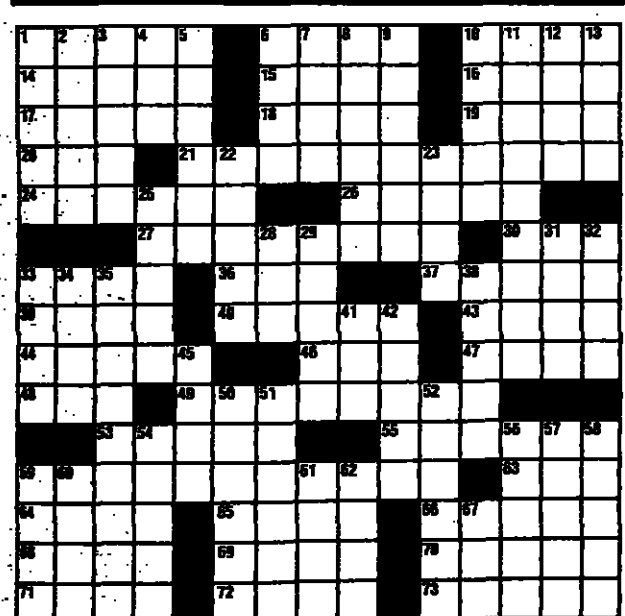
In France, where business-related travel and company-paid training in resorts is booming, professionals estimate turnover for the sector in 1988 was about a billion dollars.

A workaholic who sleeps four hours a night and has a passion for literature, Trigano started his professional career in his father's tent manufacturing concern after fighting the Germans in a communist wartime resistance group.

It was as a tent supplier that he joined the club in 1954, then run by founder Gerard Blitz, a yoga expert who was later to leave the business.

Trigano himself rarely takes time off. "I hardly ever take a holiday, but then my whole life is a long whirl of hopping from one spot to another."

## TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Dad's dad
  - Too bad!
  - "Giselle" composer
  - Adolphe
  - Desirable theater seat location
  - One of the Reindeer people
  - Girl from Guadalupe
  - Relating to morning
  - Canal of song
  - Prefix with science or present
  - Native American
  - Jukebox
  - Florida game fish
  - Mystery needs
  - Fascinate
  - Designate
  - Brood
  - Hwy.
  - Buttress
  - Inch
  - "Butterfield 8" author
  - Prompt
  - Submarine equipment
  - Ships
  - Las Vegas sign
  - "Hickety, pickety, my blackie"
  - Artistic
  - Body of a sort
  - Breathes
  - Boss of eleven
  - Future rose
  - Part of the
  - "Hurry up"
- DOWN**
- Cake cover
  - Snacks
  - Slipper
  - Poke
  - Snick-or—
  - Belgian river
  - Attire
  - The full range
  - Lasso
  - Michaelmas daisy
  - 1051, in Pompeii
  - Flag
  - Actor Guinness
  - Escapade
  - Each
  - Sorcerers' stock-in-trade
  - Negative terminal
  - Five-and-ten
  - Part of AD
  - Conduit
  - Beginning of a jazz piece
  - Defeated politicians
  - Michelangelo's is in the Vatican
  - Old English letter: Var.
  - Attain
  - Jason's ship
  - Hammer part
  - Jam
  - A woodwind
  - Small-time
  - Suspicion
  - Strong-scented herb
  - Garret
  - Lease
  - Y-rated
  - Saint Paul's birthplace
  - Paid by service
  - Camel
  - Bear
  - Respiratory organs
  - Skate parts
  - Before the ans.
  - Bator
  - Group of turtles
  - Copier
  - Heel

## ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

SPAD SMART AERO  
ALLA KOREA PIER  
NOON ARIAS PLOD  
TWICE TOLD TALES  
ASNER EYRA  
SABOT PONTIC  
SOL TENACE SONIO  
TWO FOR THE SEESAW  
LEARN TOOLED YDS  
ODDER ELLIS  
QUAD LEAPT  
DOUBLE ENTENORE  
BILE FAVOR IDEA  
IVAN IRENE OLES  
TAFT ESNES RENE

## GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

### TEST YOUR PLAY

Both vulnerable. South deals.

**NORTH**  
♠ K J 3  
♥ A Q 5  
♦ A K 5 2  
♣ J 10 5

**WEST**  
♠ 10 7 4  
♥ 10 9 8 7  
♦ 9  
♣ Q 9 7 6 4

**EAST**  
♠ 9 8 6 5 2  
♥ 6 4 3  
♦ Q J 10 8 7  
♣ Void

**SOUTH**  
♠ A Q  
♥ K J 2  
♦ 6 4 3  
♣ A K 8 3 2

The bidding:  
South West North East  
1 NT Pass 6 NT Pass  
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ten of ♠  
Once again we are going ask you to test your declaring skill. Cover up the East-West cards with your thumbs and decide how you would play six no trump after a heart lead.

Your auction was simple enough. With a balanced 17 points you had a clear-cut one-no-trump opening and partner was near maximum for his raise to slam.

The hand looks easy enough. Simply win in dummy and run the jack of clubs, and you make six or seven depending on which defender

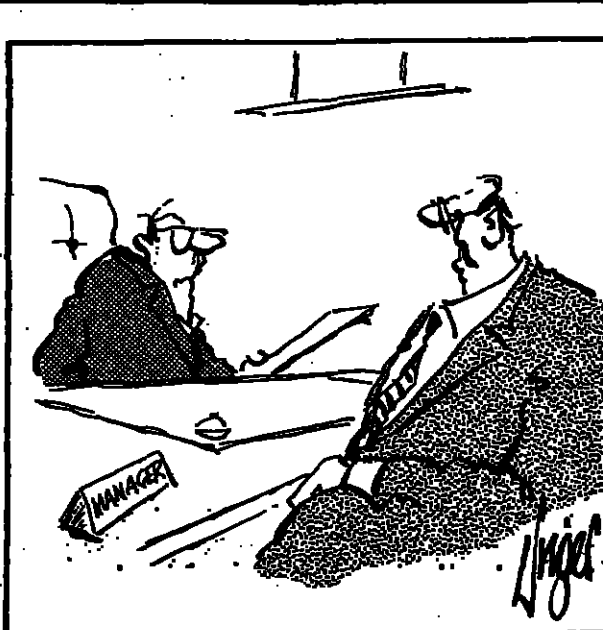
holds the queen of clubs.

That might be so, but you have sinned grievously — you have committed yourself to a line of play before bothering to count your tricks! You have eight tricks in spades, hearts and diamonds; therefore, you need four from clubs. If clubs are no worse than 4-1, your line will produce four tricks. But what if the gods are angry and the suit splits 5-0?

If you look at the East-West hands, you see that is indeed the case, and you can now come to only three club tricks — down one. You overlooked a simple safety play to guarantee yourself the required tricks.

Win the opening lead in hand with the jack and lead a low club toward dummy. If the suit is distributed as above, West can't rise with the queen without giving you four tricks in the suit, so he plays low and the ten wins as East shows out. Now you return to hand and lead another club up to the jack, and West is helpless.

What if East has all the clubs? Dummy's ten forces the queen, and all you have to do is win any return, cash the jack of clubs and take the marked finesse of the club eight to land your slam.



"I can start work Monday if I don't win the lottery."

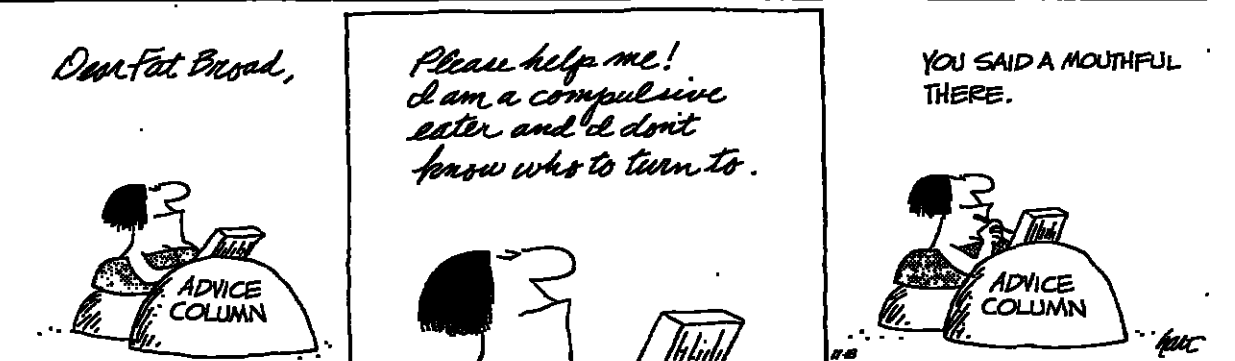
## THE WIZARD OF ID

By Bram Parker and Johnny Hart



## B.C.

By Johnny Hart



## YOUR STARS

- Aries (March 20 - April 18)**  
You will tend to do things wrong, but there is no point in getting annoyed with yourself. You should not try to use force where persuasion has failed. Do not make matters more complicated. Be punctual.
- Cancer (June 21 - July 21)**  
The Moon's more favourable influence will help you to see things in the right light. You should take better care of your health. You must be even more careful whilst walking or driving. Be resilient.
- Libra (Sept 22 - Oct. 22)**  
Something you embarked on a while ago will begin to show good results. The solution to a problem will be easier than you thought. Make sure you do not eat or drink more than you should. Be careful.
- Capricorn Dec 22 - Jan 19)**  
Many things are coming to a head all at once and you should take care not to confuse them. And try hard to avoid mistaking what is not for what is important. Do not exceed any limits and do not exaggerate either. Be generous.
- Taurus (April 19 - May 19)**  
An appointment you had been looking forward to will have to be delayed. Do not be too disappointed. You will be able to make the right choice. Be amenable.
- Leo (July 22 - Aug 21)**  
Everything will take a little longer than you think, so don't plan on doing too many things. You should do all you can to relieve tension and reduce conflict. Do not trust too much to luck. Be rational.
- Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov. 21)**  
You will get the hang of something which has been hard going for you. You will have something to be pleased but nothing to be smug about. You will be able to further your cultural interests. Be courteous.
- Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb. 18)**  
You should consider whether you may not be heading in the wrong direction before it is too late to change. Do not become obsessed with some small detail if you can help it. Avoid gossip and intrigue. Be sincere.
- Gemini (May 20 - June 20)**  
Make sure you have read the instructions carefully before you begin to use a new device. Your lucky numbers are 36 and 33. You must take special care not to cause confusion. Do not be late for a lunch date. Be kind.
- Virgo (Aug 22 - Sept 21)**  
You will find others better disposed towards you and should return the compliment. Try not to think of work today. And spend a while considering your future too. Be reliable.
- Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)**  
Your social life will take a turn for the better, but do not allow it to become dominant. Do not do anything that is bound to injure your health. Make sure you do not spend more than you can afford. Be fair.
- Pisces (Feb 19 - March 19)**  
Not everything is quite to your liking. You will however be able to make the most of what is. Do not hesitate to do a friend a favour. Be circumspect.



## FILIPINO DIGEST

## SNIPPES

**Sanggunian OK not needed:** The consent of the sangguniang bayan is not a pre-condition in the appointment of sectoral representatives in the local legislative body, local government undersecretary Jacinto Rubillar said yesterday.

Rubillar issued the statement following a question raised by Mayor Ignacio Macalintal of Guinangan, Quezon who noted that sectoral representatives have been appointed in his town without the consent of the Sangguniang bayan. He cited a local government code provision that sectoral representation should be determined by the sangguniang bayan concerned.

Rubillar explained that a Supreme Court ruling provides that the appointing authority may freely choose who is best qualified for the position.

**2 guards arrested for gun ban violation:** Two security guards were arrested by police for allegedly carrying their guns inside an entertainment house in Manila.

Felix Manaoag, 47, security chief inspector of the Tirad Pass Security Agency and residing at 1358 Anacleto St. Sta. Cruz, Manila and Celso Lumogdang, 29, of Securicor Watchmen Agency 301 Quintina Extension, Sta. Mesa, Manila were arrested by policemen under Lieut Dante Dimagnaliw, WPD investigation division action group chief.

Manaoag was arrested inside the Sariling Atin Disco and Restaurant on P. Gomez St, Quiapo. He yielded a .9mm pistol with bullets. Lumogdang was arrested inside the Cheez Mosa Beerhouse on Ramon Magsaysay Boulevard in Sampaloc. Confiscated from him was a .38 revolver.

Dimagnaliw said charges of violation of the firearm ban will be filed against the two in court.

'Operation Bakal' has been launched by Capital Regional Command and Metropolitan Police Force chief Brig. General Alexander Aguirre to tighten security measures against lawless elements in Metro Manila.

**Cop chief gets death threats:** The police chief of Bacoor, Cavite has been receiving death threats from a man for his campaign against illegal drugs.

Maj. Eduardo Catibayan said the man has been calling him up since last week.

"Hindi ka ba talaga titigil, p...ina ka?", Maj. Catibayan quoted the man as saying.

Catibayan added that since he intensified the campaign against the drug pushers in Bacoor, the unidentified man started calling him at his office.

"Humihina na siguro ang kanilang benta dahil sa takot ng mga pushers na magtulak ng gamot sa Bacoor," Catibayan said.

Catibayan said he has fired four of his police men for alleged involvement in drug trafficking. "Hindi ko sila unuranan," the police chief said.

**Zambales rebel commander killed:** A New People's Army commander was killed in a one-hour running gunbattle with soldiers in Sitio Balitbalit, Barangay Yamut, Candelario, Zambales.

Zambales PC chief Lieut Col Jose Poblete identified the rebel only as Commander Kirat.

Poblete said soldiers of the 162nd PC company led by Capt. Antonio Salas were patrolling Barangay Candelario when they encountered 40 rebels led by Kirat.

The rebels took the bodies of their slain comrades, Poblete said.

Recovered from the scene of the encounter were one ArmaLite rifle, bullets, one .38 revolver with six bullets, one fragmentation grenade, radio transceivers, two sacks of food and subversive documents.

Soldiers were pursuing the rebels as of press time.

**Boy Kirat dies despite amulet:** Boy Kirat, whom the police described as a notorious holdup man, was not saved by his amulet.

The amulet, a tin pyramid with strange words on it, did not save Kirat from being killed by bullets when he was shot by three policemen who claimed that he tried to shoot it out with them as he was being arrested after robbing a student of the Philippine Normal College near the Rizal Park recently.

Kirat died on arrival at the Ospital ng Maynila with four gunshot wounds in the body. Policemen under Lieut Manolo Martinez caught him robbing a car.

Patrolman Nelson Espirity, Robert Tolentino and Percival Jimenez claimed they were frisking Kirat when he pulled a .22 Magnum revolver.

Before Kirat could fire, they shot him first.

Found in Kirat's pockets were two wallets containing the Bank of PI express teller card of Isabella de Guzman and the visa of a Japanese.

Kirat was the fourth holdup suspect shot dead by policemen of the WPD Rizal Park detachment, said Martinez.

The three others were killed by Martinez' men when they were caught robbing park promenaders and students of PNC, NTC, and Sta Isabela College.

**Pirates kill trader:** A fish trader was robbed of P100,000 by eight men who then shot him dead aboard his fishing vessel off the coast of Novotas recently.

Modesto Rodriguez II, 38, of 21-C Int. Santiago St., Sipac, Novotas, died of a bullet wound in the back of the head, said Novotas police chief Lieut Col Alberto Nepomuceno.

The vessel's crew Mabini Malibiran, 36, Nelson Rojo, 21, Abdo Arguin, 24, Ricardo Nuna, 30, Virgilio Bueno, 34, Bert Pasi, 37, and Juanito Balais, 42, were not harmed.

Rodriguez and his crew were aboard FB Kali sailing for Palawan to buy dried fish when the eight men, aboard a "Kumpit" and armed with Uzi machine pistols and .45 pistols, intercepted them off the coast of Novotas.

Six of the armed men boarded the vessel and ordered the crewmen to lie flat on the floor. One of the men recognized Rodriguez as the owner of the vessel and dragged him inside the skipper's room where he was divested of money and a 24-carat gold ring.

After robbing Rodriguez, the man shot him in the head. The crewmen later said they could not come to his rescue because the other armed men pointed their guns at them.

The armed men warned the vessel's crew not to get up, boarded their kumpit and sped off toward Bataan.

**Family of seven blasted to death**

COTABATO CITY: A Manobo family of seven were killed by a grenade explosion believed lobbed by communist rebels at their house here last Friday, the military reported.

Belated reports from Cotabato to PC chief Maj. Gen. Ramon Montano said that a handgrenade hurled at the house of Anselmo Ansel killed Santiago, Filmon, Maymay, Embing, Jovelyn, all surnamed Ansel and Romeo and Alan Enao.

The reports said that the killings happened at about 9:30 pm while the family members were eating in their Badiangan, Magpet house.

The Ansel left their former house in Barangay Gamatun, also in Magpet town, for fear of the communists who threatened to wipe them out, the military said.

Constatulary investigators said the Manobos may have been killed for giving out information to government authorities about suspected rebels in the province.

Montano ordered the Cotabato Metro District Command to deploy additional patrols to secure the Manobos.

Also, PC authorities clarified that the armed groups which ambushed the 454th PC Company and killed nine soldiers including a Muslim PC commander were not from the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) as earlier reported but from Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

**Fishermen arrested:** Two fishermen were arrested by PC soldiers for illegal fishing in Ternate, cavite on Thursday.

Alberto Suputi and Jelly Romano, both of Ternate, Cavite, were conducting blast fishing when soldiers patrolling the Puerto Azul shoreline caught them, said 227th PC company commanding officer Capt. Don Mariano.

Seized from the two were four bottles containing ammonium nitrates which they used as dynamite, Mariano said.

The two fishermen will be charged of violation of fishery laws in court, Mariano said.

# Aquino appoints new telecom chief

PRESIDENT Aquino appointed Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) Secretary Josefa T. Lichauco as acting commissioner of the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC), replacing Jose Luis Alcuaz who was fired the other day for alleged incompetence and irregularities.

Mrs Aquino added that none of her relatives should be given special treatment, Press Secretary Adolf Azcuna said.

The President reportedly said this in response to Alcuaz's accusations that four presidential relatives, including her two sons-in-law, Eldon Cruz and Manolo Abellada, cousin Rep. Emigdio Tanjato, and niece Maria Montelibano, are intervening in decisions of the NTC.

But Transportation Secretary Rainerio Reyes said he had earlier recommended to President Aquino the dismissal of Alcuaz from office for alleged irregularities in financial management and operations.

Reyes cited, for instance, complaints of bribery and irregularities such as the illegal disbursements from the revolving fund, uncollected fees, excessive expenditures, and late remittances to Pag-IBIG, the Government Service Insurance System and Medicare.

He added that Alcuaz had indiscriminately issued permits to radio stations without franchises and was too slow in granting

licences. Reyes said Alcuaz' "incompetence, lack of maturity, and irresponsibility" were evident.

Alcuaz was using the presidential relatives as a "smokescreen" to cover up for his deficiencies, Reyes said, noting that there is nothing wrong in recommending persons to certain positions if they are qualified for the job.

Alcuaz reportedly said his two deputy commissioners were recommended by presidential relatives. He added that one relative used the President's name to block the applications of the Philippine Global Telecommunications and Eastern Telecommunications Philippines for authority to operate international switching facilities for long distance calls so that the Philippine Long Distance Co., a firm run by another relative, could monopolize the industry.

Another relative reportedly blocked the approval of the application of TV Channels 5 and 11 allegedly because the relative was planning to buy majority stocks in Channel 9 and did not want competition.

Reyes said that Alcuaz was appointed NTC commissioner by the President in 1987 almost at the same time that he (Reyes) was appointed DOTC chief. But six months after, he reportedly observed that Alcuaz was not fit for the job.

He said that that early, he recommended for his expulsion, but the President asked him to give him time to improve his per-

formance. In December, 1988, he again recommended his removal and Alcuaz asked for six months and promised to be more co-operative. But he reportedly did not improve and did not give any explanation for alleged irregularities.

**Alcuaz vow**  
Former Commissioner Jose Luis Alcuaz of the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) vowed yesterday to make more disclosures "before the proper forum, such as the Senate Blue Ribbon committee and the House committee on public accountability."

Alcuaz issued the statement at a press conference yesterday morning, before he left for Bacolod to verify reports on the release of kidnapped broadcaster Rogelio Florete, who has been held by the New People's Army (NPA) since last Sept 4.

He said his office had received President Aquino's letter, informing him that he had been replaced at about 8.30 am yesterday.

Last Tuesday, Alcuaz named presidential relatives who, he said, had applied political pressure on him to hold back certain decisions which would break the monopoly status of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company (PLDT).

He named Eldon Cruz, a son-in-law of the President, and Rep. Emigdio Tanjato (LDP/Rizal), a cousin of the President, as the ones who had

allegedly obstructed his efforts to break the PLDT monopoly.

"I want to make it clear that I am implementing policy regarding monopolies as provided for in the Constitution, as expressed by the President, and as set forth in the policy statement of the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) embodied in DOTC Circular No. 87-188," Alcuaz said. (Mitos Garcia)

**Reyes**  
Transportation Secretary Rainerio Reyes said yesterday that National Telecommunications Commission Jose Luis Alcuaz was fired for incompetence.

He said that the timing for his dismissal was unfortunate. The order dismissing Alcuaz was sig-

ned Monday, Tuesday, Alcuaz, who had been attacking the Aquino administration on and off, called a press conference to hit the President and her relatives.

Reyes said that Alcuaz had disbursed funds totalling P3.4 million without legal basis. He added that Alcuaz authorized irregular and excessive expenditures for equipment for the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC).

Reyes also accused him of illegally issuing certificates of public convenience to applicants who did not possess franchises. He said that he had warned Alcuaz to stop this practice, which he obeyed for a year. Last month, Reyes said, Alcuaz declared that he was no longer

bound by Reyes' order. Reyes said Alcuaz failed to collect P3 million in supervision fees from telecommunication companies.

He said he failed to carry out World Bank-funded project on frequency management and monitoring of broadcast stations. As a result of this failure, Reyes said, he had to ask the World Bank to extend the project by another year. (Brenda Piquero Tuazon)

**Enrile**  
Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile said yesterday the most serious of National Telecommunications Commission Jose Luis Alcuaz's charges was his disclosure that President Aquino personally sought to cover up the illegal activities of her relatives.



**Forced to ditch**

A twin-engine DC-3 cargo plane lies in shallow water off Barulite town near San Juan, Batangas, after it was forced to ditch while on a flight from Roxas City to Manila. This photo was taken from a helicopter of the 505th Air Rescue Squadron piloted by Capt. Nonie Natividad, with Billy Ostonal as co-pilot.

## Napocor men in illegal logging raps

NORZAGARAY, Bulacan: Fieldmen of the National Power Corp. have been caught engaging in a potentially lucrative business: illegal logging.

Provincial authorities confiscated 3,162 "hot" logs from Napocor representatives after a "confrontation meeting" with Gov Roberto Pagdanganan at a hilltop in Norzagaray.

Pagdanganan said unauthorized logging by the power firm caused the big floods in Bocaue, Marikina and Meycauayan towns recently.

He told Napocor fieldmen to stop their illegal activities, citing a Department of Environment and Natural Resources order outlawing the cutting of trees in the watershed area in Norzagaray and the neighbouring towns of San Miguel, Angat and Dona Remedios Trinidad.

Pagdanganan said he will charge the Napocor fieldmen with violation of forestry laws.

Provincial forest guards earlier reported that Napocor representatives exceeded the 3,000 pieces authorized by the DENR, by cutting 6,162 logs since July this year, mostly in Sitios Mayapa, Similaban, Pangayugan and Magayana.

During the confrontation, Pagdanganan was assured that Napocor would stop logging operations in these areas by Florencio de Jesus and Edmund Anguluan, chiefs of the Angat hydro-electric plant and watershed management office, respectively.

Pagdanganan said the confiscated logs will be used by the provincial government for making school desks and electric posts.

He noted that the 3,000 logs cut by Napocor with the authorization of the DENR would not benefit people of Bulacan, since the firm intended to sell them to the Manila Electric Co.

"Bulacan is suffering so much from this operation," Pagdanganan said.



### Embassy corner

## Fiesta Islands programme for December '89

FOR all those interested to visit the Philippines in the month of December, listed below are some of the activities one can engage in while there, part of the "Fiesta Islands" promotion of the Philippines Department of Tourism:

### Paskuhan '89 month-long nation-wide

In the Philippines, one realizes the advent of Christmas when the mornings grow cooler, and the nights become longer. But no matter how cold, Christmas in the country is so cherished that Filipinos abroad go back at this time to luxuriate in the warmth and good cheer of a traditional Filipino Christmas. For 1989, Christmas will especially be merry, as the Paskuhan '89, the collective term for the fiestas held in December, is staged.

There will be a Lantern Competition and Exhibit, Dawn Masses/Panunuluyan, the Intramuros Festival, the highlight of which is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and the gift-giving for orphans and underprivileged.

With Paskuhan '89, every day of December promises to be a day of celebration, with activities and the simple warmth and joy of Filipinos celebrating the birth of the Redeemer.

How to get there: If you're already in Manila, stay put. The events in Fiesta Manila are easily accessible via taxi, bus, jeepney, or car.

### Fiesta Intramuros: 1st and 2nd week of December/ Intramuros, Manila

Celebrating the rich cultural and historical period of the Spanish era and, at the same time, the feast of the Immaculate Conception, is this Intramuros Festival. After restoring Intramuros to its old pre-war glory complete with cobblestone walks and 18th century shops and houses, a festival that re-creates the Spanish traditions is most apt.

A series of religious, cultural, and civic activities are lined up. Among them, a Carroza display and parade, a Marian Festival at the Manila Cathedral, a Marian Procession starting from the San Agustin Church on December 4, a Religious Art Exhibit also at the San Agustin Church, and tours around old Manila houses within Barrio San Luis of Intramuros.

How to get there: Intramuros is easily accessible by bus, jeepney, car, or taxi.

### Simbang Gabi '89: December 15 to 24/nation-wide

The practice of Simbang Gabi was traced to the Spanish period in the country. It was termed Misa de Aguinaldo which literally translates to "Gift Masses" and is dedicated to the Virgin Mary. It starts on the 15th of December and culminates on the 24th. It is traditionally held in the church patio.

Christmas carols are sung over the loudspeakers prior to the Mass to awaken the townsfolk. After the sung Masses, people partake of native kakanin such as puto, bumbong, bibingka, salabat, and hot chocolate.

How to get there/accommodations: You should not go far from where you're staying because for sure there is a church nearby, usually accessible by car, bus or jeepney.

### Giant Lantern Festival: December 23, 24/San Fernando, Pampanga

Among the highlights of Christmas in the Philippines is the Giant Lantern Festival held in San Fernando, Pampanga. The kaleidoscope of light and tinsel from these giant lanterns showcasing Filipino ingenuity brightens Christmas.

This Giant Lantern Festival attracts droves of people, not only from Pampanga, but also from nearby provinces and Manila. As the bright tinsel and strobes light up for the parade, so do the hearts of those who watch in awe and wonder at the spectacle.

How to get there: San Fernando is 76 kilometres from Manila, approximately an hour and a half away. Buses go to San Fernando direct, leaving every hour.

Accommodations: One can head back to Manila, though there are several inns and lodging houses in San Fernando where one can have a comfortable stay.

### Panunuluyan/Maytinis: December 24/Kawit, Cavite

On Christmas Eve, in Kawit, Cavite, the search of Joseph and Mary for an inn to spend the night is re-enacted. A young couple plays Joseph and Mary, and each door they knock on refuses them entry. However, they are given provisions for their trip. The Panunuluyan or Maytinis is a town-wide tableau that reminds the townsfolk of the deeper meaning and solemnity of Christmas amid the din of revelry and fine food.

How to get there: Numerous buses and jeepneys ply routes that go to Cavite, and the trip is approximately one hour from Manila.

Accommodations: Inns and lodging houses are not common in Cavite. You can head back to Manila on the same day.

### Manila Film Festival: December 24 to January 03/ Metro-Manila-wide

The silver screen becomes the focus of events as the Manila Film Festival unveils a host of Filipino films for festival exhibition vying for awards and citations. The festival reels off with a parade of stars along Roxas Boulevard, with crowds expected to line the streets to get a glimpse of their favourite stars on screen. Metro-wide cinemas will be showing this festival's films, and visitors can have a view of Filipino culture through these movies. The festival culminates in an award's night,

where the best films and performances will be given their recognition and rewards. Watch Filipino filmdom's finest!

How to get there: Buses, taxis, and jeepneys can take you to any cinema in town.

### Lantern Festival: December 26-31/CCP Complex, Manila

Filipino craftsmanship let loose during the Christmas season provides the spectacle in the Lantern Festival, featuring over a hundred lanterns symbolizing peace. During the cool nights of December, warm your hearts in this display of colourful lanterns that seek to symbolise man's desire since the fall: peace.

How to get there: If you're already in Manila, stay put. Quirino Grandstand is just a few minutes away by car, bus, or jeepney.

### Biniyaran: December 27 to 30/San Jose, Antique

This festival celebrates the landing of ten Malay datu on Panay Island to set up the first Malay settlement. The word "Biniyaran" means to take a leisurely boat ride or a place where "biray" or small boats are anchored. It is said that the ancient Ali, who were the inhabitants of the area, bartered with these datu on Panay Island. Started in 1971, the celebration features a consecrated Mass to mark the event, then non-stop dancing and other festivities that have attracted a number of tourists.

How to get there: By air, Philippine Airlines flies to Iloilo City four times daily. After the hour flight, one can go to Antique by land.

By sea, San Jose in Antique is a 20-hour trip from Manila, with ships leaving twice a week.

Accommodations: In San Jose are various lodging houses, inns, pensions, and beach resorts that provide comfortable accommodations.

### International Fireworks Festival: December 31/back of Quirino Grandstand

This fireworks exhibition shall be the fitting finish to 1989, the Philippine tourism's Fiesta Year. Pyrotechnics will be provided by the foremost fireworks manufacturer in Japan.

The festival, which will serve as the highlight of a sunset show featuring local artists, is expected to run for an hour and a half and can be seen all over Roxas Boulevard, with Manila Bay providing the reflection that will make the fireworks show even more spectacular.

Manila's skyline is sure to turn into a kaleidoscope of momentary though glorious bursts of colour, spark, and brilliance that are synchronised with music. All city lights will also be lighted.

How to get there: If you're already in Manila, stay put. Quirino Grandstand is just a few minutes away by car, bus, taxi, or jeepney.

Accommodations: In the whole of Metro-Manila, hotels, motels, inns, and lodging houses are plenty. Any budget will find a place.

## PCCI hits BOI move on 'Best'

### Unpatriotic, says Periquet

THE Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) yesterday expressed its concern over the possible dislocation of domestic industries due to unfair competition arising from the granting of incentives to new industries.

Aurelio Periquet Jr., PCCI president, said that increasingly, domestic industries are being subjected to unfair competition with new BOI registered multinational companies. He cited the case of the approval by BOI of Best Chemicals and Plastic Corporation.

"How can we strengthen our domestic industries if we do not support them?" Periquet asked. It is imperative that domestic industries are kept competitive on the basis of equal footing with new investments. And there is no need for unnecessarily exposing our domestic industries to unfair competition which will damage, not only our legitimate business, but also their workers' BOI should instead encourage our local industries to expand, he added.

Periquet also rebuffed BOI vice-chairman Tomas Alcantara's statement regarding importations of packaging materials.

Alcantara issued the statement to clarify BOI's ruling on the application of Best Chemicals and Plastic, Inc. which was being opposed by domestic manufacturers of OPP and the PCCI.

According to PCCI, based on official statistics issued by the National Statistics Office, the importation of polypropylene in the form of plates, sheets, film foil or strip has been declining since 1987 as follows: 2,650 tonnes in 1987, 2405 tonnes in 1988 and 1,100 tonnes for the first semester of 1989.

## Mindanao railway network approved

### New jobs and employment opportunities

THE National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) has approved the construction of a railroad line that will link at least nine Mindanao provinces and "help bring peace to Southern Philippines."

Economic Planning Secretary Jesus Estanislao said NEDA will also endorse the creation of the Mindanao Railway System Authority to President Aquino in the next Regional Development Council meeting in Malacanang.

Estanislao noted that the proposed railway project will be an "auspicious start" in the grant of autonomy to Muslim Mindanao. "It will open more jobs and other employment opportunities and hasten economic progress in the region," Estanislao said.

Datu Saripada Ali Pacasmun, author of the railroad project, said the plan aims to bolster government efforts to speed up economic recovery efforts in Central Mindanao.

"It is just one of the solutions to the Mindanao problem," he told sources.

The proposed 700-kilometre railroad line will link the cities of Iligan, Cotabato, Davao, Butuan and Cagayan de Oro and the provinces of Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Davao del Norte, Davao del Sur, North Cotabato, Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Lanao del Norte, Misamis Oriental and Bukidnon.

Pacasmun, officer-in-charge and speaker of the Batasang Pampook of Region 12, said "the project, although an ambitious one, will receive minimum funding support from the government because it is self-liquidating income-earning."

While the railroad project will initially operate out of government funds, he said it will get its operating capital estimated to be between P9 to P10 billion, from grants-in-aid and subsidies from Canadian and Japanese investors. Marubeni Corporation, a big Japanese firm, wrote to Pacasmun and confirmed its "keen interest to participate in the railroad project."

Pacasmun pointed out that autonomy alone will not solve the Mindanao problem "unless it is combined with economic development projects like this."

On the proposed Mindanao Railway System Authority, Pacasmun said at least P10 million was needed "for its preliminary operation, organization and studies that have to be conducted in connection with the railway line."

Earlier, Transportation and Communications Secretary Rainerio Reyes assured Pacasmun of the DOTC's willingness to "extend engineering and technical assistance" in conducting the feasibility study of the railroad system.

Reyes said a thorough feasibility study was necessary "considering the magnitude of investment required on the project, the current privatization thrust of the government and the profound and diverse effects of the proposal on the overall social, economic and political development of Mindanao."

"We have a long experience in the field of railways and rolling stocks projects and undertaking the supply and construction of such projects, including the necessary design and engineering," said M. Maruyama, Marubeni general manager.

"We can implement this project on a turnkey basis starting from the initial design and engineering works to the civil and construction works and the supply of equipment such as diesel cars complete with the necessary communications and signalling systems," he added.



# FEBTC hold high hopes for next year

**NEARING** the homestretch of the 2nd Bankers Athletic Association (BAA) — Philcom Inter-bank tennis bowling tournament, it's almost a cinch that Asian Development Bank (ADB) is sure of retaining the championship.

If there's one team that can still make a desperate bid to overtake the defending champion, however, it's Central Bank.

For the twelve remaining teams, it's nowhere to go but back to the drawing boards. At any rate, there's still next year to look forward to.

Of course, a team like Far East Bank and Trust Co. which is in the middle of the 14-year field, will have to come up with strategies that could lift it out of mediocrity and into the limelight next year.

After nine rounds, FEBTC has amassed 18 points. Not really that bad, but not that good, either.

Far East Bank is represented by Jose Pineda, Jose Nuguid, Virgilio Paz, Nathaniel Gulay, Jose L. Nario Jr. Noel Buenaventura, Estrella Reodica, Josefina Claudio, Carmen Reyes, Elvira Danganan, Dorothy Uy and Phoebe Lao.

Pineda, nicknamed Jake, was born July 17, 1940 and is a graduate of Far Eastern University. He is first vice-president of the Trusts Investments Group.

Nuguid, born on March 17, 1940, is first vice-president of the Central Operations Group. Also an FEU alumnus, he bowls in the PBA Wednesday League.

Paz, a member of the Tempins Bowling Association of Makati (TBAM), is a signature/transaction verifier. He was born Dec 2, 1959 and has been with FEBTC for eight years.

Gulay is a civil engineering graduate of the University of Santo Tomas. Born June 6, 1959, he holds the position of appraiser at the head office.

Nario is a Commerce graduate from San Beda. He is a senior book-keeper at the accounting department of the Bani branch. Born March 22, 1962, he regularly participates in Pasig Bowling Association (PBA) tournaments.

Buenaventura is a BSBA graduate of La Salle. He is assistant vice-president of the Trusts Investments Group.

Nuguid, born on March 17, 1940, is first vice-president of the Central Operations Group. Also an

FEU alumnus, he bowls in the PBA Wednesday League.

Paz, a member of the Tempins Bowling Association of Makati (TBAM), is a signature/transaction verifier. He was born December 2, 1959 and has been with FEBTC for eight years.

Estrella Reodica is a foreign service graduate as is vice-president of the Trusts Investments Group. Nicknamed "Nene," she was born June 14, 1945.

Manito Claudio is executive secretary of the Corporate Planning Group and subsidiaries. She is a member of the Buddy Buddies Bowling Club Inc. at the Ali Mall II. She was 1988 BBBCI Bowler of the Year and BBBCI annual champion of the Ladies Division I.

Carmen Reyes is a senior assistant cashier at the Arraque branch. Born June 1, 1956, she is a social science graduate of the University of the Philippines.

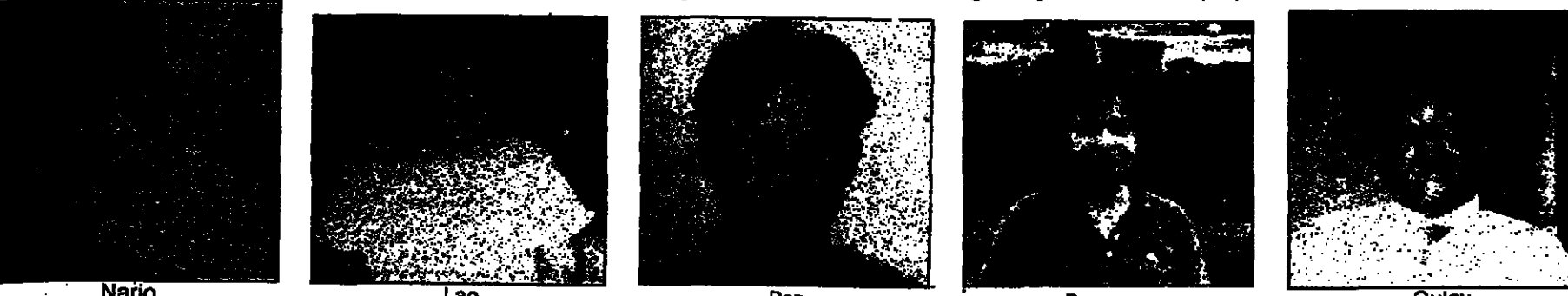
Elvira Danganan is assistant cashier of the Central Operations Group. She has been with FEBTC for ten years and has also competed in the BAA mini-Olympics.

Dorothy Uy is manager of the Arraque Branch. She is a marketing graduate of St. Paul's College of Quezon City. Aside from the BAA tourney, she also takes part in meets sponsored by the Philippine Columbian Association.

Phoebe Lao holds an MBA degree from New Hampshire College. She was born July 31, 1965 and is a tech. Specialist IV at the CSD-SPD of the Bel Air branch. She has participated in New Hampshire College International Student Association Bowling meets and Rotaract bowlfeasts in Quezon City.

Standings after 9 rounds: ADB - 22,386 pinfalls/33 points; CB - 21,497/28.5; BPI - 21,528/24; PNB - 21,321/23; B America - 20,739/20; RCB - 20,679/18; FEBTC - 20,634/18; PCIB - 20,738/17.5; Interbank - 21,064/17; Land Bank - 20,426/16.5; Solidbank - 20,637/15; Traders Royal Bank - 20,099/15; Chinabank - 19,610/5.3; and Citibank - 18,570/1.

Central Bank holds the high team single of 982 while ADB had a high triple of 2631. High Game for Ladies was posted by Solid's Jo Lim (212), while the men's was set by CB's Lito Zamora (253). High Series for men was posted by Rudy Bantora of BA (637) while in the Ladies, Fining Ocampo of ADB scored (529).



## A 10-year quest for justice Beware of lipstick

**By Raul Beltran**

**EXACTLY** 10 years ago Romulo Alaras, one of my best friends from Nasugon, Batangas, was brutally murdered with two of his co-workers in a robbery holdup of a Makati financing firm.

A decade after that gruesome incident, his mother and his two sisters are still crying for justice. The death of Alaras, a 32-year old cashier, also led to the death of his father.

That fateful morning of 1979, a Saturday, Romulo told his mother Remedios, father Serafin and his sisters of his big plans for the following year: buy them a house and lot and marry his girlfriend.

Romulo told them not to wait for him for dinner as he was to work overtime at the First Nationwide Credit Corp (FNCC) in Legazpi village where he was the chief cashier.

I was then a reporter of Kyodo News Service, a Japanese news agency, and I can still vividly recall the conversation I had with Romulo at about 6 pm that Saturday.

"Hindi ako makakasama sa tropa ngayon," said Romulo in reference to our "Saturday happy hours." "My overtime ako at malamang ay gagabihin ako ng uwi. Pero kung gusto ng tropa, kayo na lamang nagmamita dito."

Alaras was with his assistant, Roel "Toto" Ginete, 24, of Bacolod city; Andrew Angelo, a security guard; Dong Yang, a messenger/collector; and another unidentified security guard.

Between 8 and 9 pm, five heavily-armed men all dressed in fatigue uniforms and reportedly speaking in fluent English, suddenly barged into the FNCC offices. Once inside, they announced a holdup and begged Ginete, Angelo, Yang and the unidentified security guard and brought them to an adjoining room, theorized Detective Jack "Nonoy" Nayra, now a lieutenant with the Makati Police's Station Investigation Division.

The armed men then brought Alaras to another

room and ordered him to open the company vault from where, police investigators said, they scooped more than P300,000 in cash, representing the firm's collection for the week.

They then hogtied Alaras and ordered him to kneel with his four co-workers. Then three shots were heard.

Romulo Alaras, Roel Ginete and Andrew Angelo were dead, each one with a bullet wound in his head.

Quoting witnesses, the investigators said the suspects fled on board a white Toyota car with their loot and the firearms of the security guards.

At the crime scene, the police found the victim's bodies sprawled on the floor with .45 caliber empty shells and the already-united and terrified — but unarmed — Yang and the unidentified security guard.

Back at the Alaras residence on P. Champa St in Sampaloc, the family was awakened by the bad news: Romulo was dead.

His death was too much for his father, a retired school teacher, to carry. He suffered a heart attack and was brought to the Medical Centre of Manila. He died after surgery a day later.

Serafin and Romulo Alaras lay in state at the Mt Carmel Church in Quezon City and were buried side by side at the South Cemetery a week later.

Except for the empty shells, Makati police investigators still have no concrete evidence that could lead to the solution of the murders. Nayra and fellow investigators Ting Manillo and Louie Villanueva had repeatedly admitted before this reporter that they have no suspects in the crime.

For her part, Mrs Remedios Alaras has appealed to authorities — including President Corason Aquino and then Defense Minister, now Senator, Juan Ponce Enrile — to help her seek justice for the death of her only son and her husband.

She has every reason to be poignant and indignant.

"The killers of my son are also to be blamed for the death of my husband," she said.

## Tambok beauties No short cuts in ballet

**IN** the local ballet scene, the names of sisters Shirley Halili Cruz and Jeng Halili have become synonymous to the continuous search and development of local talents and cultivating the appreciation of ballet among the great majority.

Coming from a closely-knit and service-oriented family (the two are descendants of the founders of Halili Beer and Halili Transit, famous during the prewar days), Shirley and Jeng have devoted all their life's

aspirations to ballet.

While Jeng at 24 has remained unattached, Shirley, though with a family of her own, still pursues her "greatest love" relentlessly.

In fact, her husband, businessman Eric Cruz and their two talented kids — Anna-Kathrina, 8, who's following in her mother's foot-steps as a young ballerina and consistent honor student, and Francis Frederic, 5, are her avid fans and critics. They never fail to attend all her dance projects and even assist her in taping the music needed for her rehearsals and classes.

Now in the thick of preparations for the Quezon City Ballet's second major concert since its inception last year, the two can be found most of the time at their school, the Halili-Cruz School of Dance located at 1227 Quezon Avenue. The concert entitled An Evening with the Quezon City Ballet and Lisa Macuja will be staged for two nights on Nov 18 and 19 at the Main Theatre of the Manila Film Centre. The QCB is the official performing group of the HCSD.

During rehearsals, the two hardly sleep as the bulk of the responsibilities fall on their laps, Shirley being the group's artistic director and Jeng, the associate director. They do the choreography, choose the music, attend to

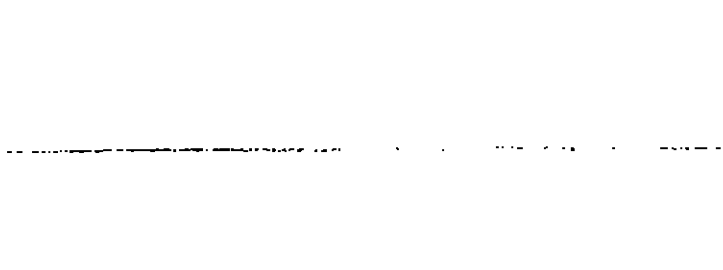
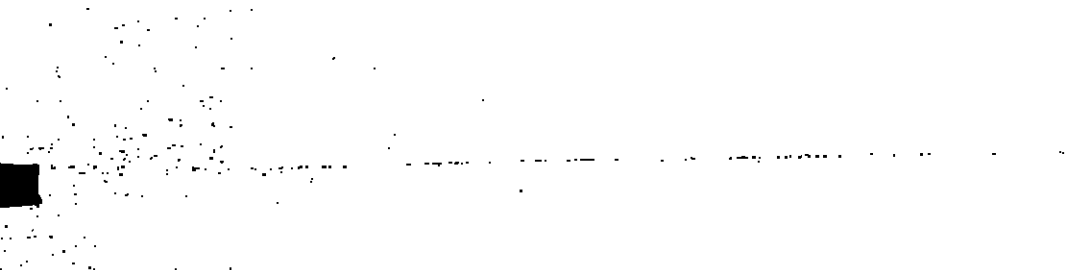
all the requirements (sets, props, lighting, etc), supervise the collaterals like the poster, souvenir programme and the tickets.

All the hard work is not, however, evident on their faces, as they love what they are doing. They have also forged harmonious working relationship. Rivalry to them is a strange word.

"We consult each other constantly regarding projects," says Shirley. "We respect each other's artistic sense and belief."

Says Jeng, "Our teaching method is synonymous. We made a syllabus suited to our students based on our greatest concern — which is to impart what we know as effectively as possible, and so far, it's working. Our students and their parents are pleased with the way we are conducting things in the school."

In the school, Shirley and Jeng enjoy the full support of their students who have reached the 1,000 mark. Everyone considers herself or himself as a member of one big family. Their efforts seem to be paying off. Those who started with them when they were aged only seven or eight and are now in their teens are still with them. Students who were interviewed during rehearsals were one in saying that ballets has taught



## Provinces

**ANGELES CITY:** Pampanga Gov. Bren Z. Guiso said yesterday he has signed a memorandum of agreement which calls for the relocation of squatters living near the perimeter fence of Clark Air Base here and neighboring Mabalacat town because he wanted to "take advantage" of a \$5 million fund for the project.

Guiso told the bi-monthly Media-Business Forum here that the main reason he signed the agreement was the \$5 million which, according to him, is explicitly provided for under another memorandum of agreement entered into between Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus and former US Secretary of State George Schultz.

Under the basic security provision of the Manglapus-Schultz agreement, the Philippine will take steps to relocate and resettle the squatters and provide them with means of livelihood funded by a \$5-million grant.

However, Guiso assured the families near Clark that they will not be relocated unless they are consulted or at least they are agreeable to the implementing guidelines for their transfer.

The Pampanga governor said that under the agreement which he signed, the Clark's squatters must be given houses and livelihood sources. He said that if these commitments are not met, "I will personally object their transfer."

Signed on Sept 28, 1988, the other signatories to the agreement calling for the relocation of Clark's squatters were Angeles Mayor Antonio Abad Santos, Mabalacat Mayor Wilfredo C. Halili, and officials of Clark Air Base Command (CABCOM), the National Housing Authority (NHA), and the Philippine National Railways (PNR).

The agreement said squatters pose security risks to the US facility.

During a recent public hearing conducted here by the Senate committee on foreign relations, leaders of Pagkakaisa ng mga Maralitang Laban sa Demolishyon protested their transfer.

Officials of barangay Camathilines, Mabalacat, where the squatter families are to be relocated, have likewise opposed the relocation plan.

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**MANILA:** Passports, as a major task of the Office of Consular Services (OCS), affects the entire operations of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) in such a way that its efficiency, or inefficiency, reflects upon the total functioning of the country's diplomatic system.

This was the message imparted by Philippine Ambassador to the Soviet Union Juan Saez at the graduation ceremonies of the first batch of 54 DFA staff officers who completed new courses in passporting, visa, and consular assistance at the Foreign Service Institute.

The awarding of certificates, held at the Consular Centre Building, also marked the reunion of three former directors-general of the institute. They are Saez, Ambassadors Emmanuel Fernandez and Benjamin Domingo, foreign affairs adviser and executive director of the OCS, respectively.

The OCS was recently reorganized by Secretary Raul S. Manglapus to answer the increasing demand for passports by Filipinos who desire to travel abroad as workers, students, and tourists. Today, number of passport applications is more than 2,000 daily. It accounts for P1 million collection in passport fees per working day.

Sectional meetings were sponsored by the OCS with the Philippine Travel Agents Association (PTAA), employment-recruitment agencies, and other organizations in the public sector to acquaint them with the services offered by the OCS.

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**NASUGBU, Batangas:** Judge L. Venturana of the Regional Trial Court in this town has issued a warrant of arrest against Muhammad Ali Alsallom, a Saudi Arabian national who was accused of illegal recruitment by the provincial prosecutor of Batangas.

Alsallom's co-accused — Basilio "Boyet" Igana, Jocelyn Igana, and Zoraida Tupino — were included in the warrant of arrest issued by Judge Venturana.

Earlier, Judge Venturana ordered the release of Alsallom who is facing cases of estafa on three counts after he posted a P60,000 cash bail for his provisional liberty.

The Saudi Arabian national was originally accused of estafa before Judge Fernando Z. Cauman of the Lian Municipal Trial Court. After conducting a preliminary investigation of the case, Judge Cauman recommended to the provincial prosecutor that the accused should also be charged with illegal recruitment aside from estafa.

Provincial Prosecutor Carmelo Q. Quizon approved Cauman's recommendation. The information for illegal recruitment stated that the accused are "non-licensed and/or non-holders of authority to engage in recruitment and placement of workers for overseas employment." No bail was recommended.

Lawyer and former newspaperman Reynaldo B. Castelo who volunteered his legal services to the complainants urged the Commission on Immigration and Deportation to keep a close watch on Alsallom who has reportedly transferred to an unknown address.

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**MANILA:** A 42-year-old woman was meted out life imprisonment by the Manila regional trial court for engaging in large-scale illegal recruitment of workers for overseas jobs.

Convicted in a 23-page decision written by Judge Romeo Callejo was Bernadette Sunga of 1614 Sampaguita St, Sta Cruz, Manila. She was ordered by the court to pay a fine of P100,000 in addition to an amount of P34,000 which she was directed to reimburse to persons she had victimized.

The complainants were Melba Oreta, Manuel Cruz, Andres Cabrera, Ruby Andrade, Roberto Escador, James Segovia, Rolando Tabasa, Roberto Gaan, Alicia Sy, Editha Vargas, Guillermo Moncayo, Cristina de Guzman and Eden Velo.

They were recruited by the accused early last year to be part of a group of 200 overseas workers who were supposed to be hired by the management of the Gulf Hotel in Safat, Kuwait.

Court records showed that Sunga, who claimed to be a representative of the Mabuhay Personnel & Management Services Inc. which holds office on A. Mabini St, Ermita, assured the complainants of employment, telling them that her husband is the manager of the hotel.

At the same time, Sunga allegedly told the complainants that she is a goddaughter of a police general and is influential at the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration.

It was alleged that the accused posed as a doctor who has a clinic at the Far Eastern University.

The complainants claimed that the accused took from them the necessary papers in March, 1988 and after several weeks, she collected from them the supposed recruitment fees ranging from P6,000 to P7,000.

They said they were told by Sunga that they were scheduled to leave on April 8 but they have to attend first a briefing and orientation lecture the day before.

Sunga did not attend the orientation lecture and was later found to have disappeared.

Verification made with the POEA showed that Sunga was not authorized to recruit overseas workers. The Mabuhay Personnel & Management Services denied that she is neither a representative nor an employee of the firm.

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**MAKATI:** Fashion designer Arnie Tan has survived a knife attack by a 25-year-old man who is said to be a "shabu" addict.

Tan suffered 20 stab wounds in the head, face, neck, and other parts of the body, his three attending physicians, Doctors Bobby Alojipan, Vic Lopez, and L. Isabela, all of the Makati Medical Centre, said.

The suspect who is now detained at Precinct 5 in Quezon City was identified by Pat Dennis Paredes, investigator, as Marcelino Bong Sian, of 80 Maryland St, Cubao, Quezon City.

\*\*\*

**MARIKINA:** The Supreme Court has acquitted a government physician convicted by the Sandiganbayan in 1988 of violation of the Anti-Graft Law.

Acquitted in a decision written by Justice Emilio A. Gancayaco was Dr Reynaldo Jacinto, who in 1984 was appointed officer of the Eulogio Rodriguez Sr Memorial Hospital (ERMH) in Marikina, Metro Manila.

The High Court said that if at all, the liability of Jacinto may be civil, if not administrative, and that "a conviction under the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act is certainly out of the question."

The case against Jacinto was filed by another physician Dr Veneracion Pasis Munar who claimed that she was prejudiced when Jacinto withheld her salaries and excluded her from the plantilla of the ERMH.

Jacinto argued he had to institute disciplinary action on Pasis Munar who was teaching in other medical schools on top of her duty at the ERMH.

The Sandiganbayan convicted Jacinto and sentenced him to a six-year prison term. Rulings in favor of Jacinto, the high court said, that because of the Sandiganbayan prosecution of Jacinto, the physician was purged from the government service after the EDSA revolution.

\*\*\*

**MAKATI:** A Makati councilor, Roberto Brillante, cheated death but his driver-bodyguard was killed and another seriously wounded when they were ambushed by two motorcycle-riding armed men in Guadalupe, Makati, Metro Manila.

Killed was Armando Lumanag, confidential assistant, who was driving the car at the time of the ambush.

Lumanag sustained multiple gunshot wounds in the upper chest and died upon arrival at the Makati Medical Centre.

Also taken to the same hospital with gunshot wound in the abdomen was Faustino M. Moresca, 27, a member of the staff of the councilor.

He was operated on.

Roberto Brillante said he and his two companions had just come from the house of a friend at Pinagkaisahan St, Makati, and were on their way home when fired upon by the suspects.

Brillante, who was seated at the back seat, said they were about to make a left turn along EDSA when the suspects overtook them. One of the two suspects alighted and fired several shots with a .45 caliber pistol, hitting the two victims, Brillante said.

\*\*\*

**BATANGAS:** PC troopers seized 135 sacks and 76 nets of imported garlic worth P700,000 in barangay Pinagbayanan, Taysan, Batangas.

The AFP Civil Relations Service (CRS), led by Brig. Gen. Oscar Florendo, said troops of the 217th PC Company, led by Capt. Edmund Zaide, with a search warrant from Regional Trial Court Judge Ernesto D. Mercado, raided the house of Hernando Villena and found the suspected smuggled garlic.

Earlier, PC intelligence agents had received a tip that contraband goods from Borneo were unloaded in barangay Masagisti, Lobo, Batangas.

Capt. Sofronio Alvarico, commanding officer of the 217th PC Company, sent Zaide to check it. When Zaide's team arrived in Masagisti, residents pinpointed Villena's house where the garlic was kept.

After Zaide secured a warrant, his team raided Villena's house and found the garlic. Despite pressure from local politicians, Zaide filed charges of violation of the Customs and Tariff Code against Villena.

Zaide co-ordinated with the Bureau of Customs (BOC) in the Port of Batangas, led by Collector Ben Manogo.

\*\*\*

**PAMPANGA:** Ground-breaking rites for the Floridablanca Industrial Park, an integral part of the Floridablanca industrialization programme, were held in barangay San Jose, Floridablanca, Pampanga with Justice Secretary Sedfrey A. Ordonez as guest of honor.

Two sub-projects under the umbrella of the Florida Heights Industrial Park are the 10-hectare land for overseas Filipinos who wish to return and help in nation-building and the 45-hectare industrial land with 240 units allotted for small-scale and medium-scale investments.

The other guests at last week rites include Gov. of Investments Board, Melito Salazar, Congressman Emy Linag, Gov. Bren Z. Guiso, Vice Gov. Cleo M. Salgado, Mayor Tito M. Mendola, and Vice Mayor Ruffino Tolentino Jr.



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SPORTS

Policarpio wins chess tournament

THE two-month long First Active Chess Tournament, organized by the Filipino Chess Club in Kuwait, came to a close on Friday with lots of surprises. Fernando "Nanding" Policarpio topped the field of 15 finalists and once again proved that his winning the 1989 Palarong Pilipino Individual Chess Championship a few months back was no fluke. This time, however, he had to struggle all the way and went in fact only chasing Danilo Calasin's record up to the last final round.

Adding excitement to the final day was Mr Unpredictable himself, Rene Mostrales, who trounced the top 2 finishers in the succession thereby throwing the race for top honours wide open into the last three rounds of the finals.

Calasin and Policarpio actually tied for the first place with identical score of 10.5 points out of a possible 14, but Policarpio edged the former in the tie-breaker by a score of 63.25 against Calasin's 61.25. A close finish indeed. Policarpio himself didn't know he won until the tie-break was applied.

All the 15 finalists are seasoned chess players well versed in book lines and tactical play. Danilo Calasin, 2nd place and revelation of the tournament, in particular showed matured approach and deep understanding of positional play. It all looked so easy seeing him go thru his game.

The schedule of the awarding ceremonies and elections will be held at 9.00 am on Friday, November 30, 1999 at the New Kabayan Restaurant. All members are requested to come in the Filcheck uniform.

Expected to grace the ceremonies are representatives from the tournaments major sponsors, namely Trico International, a Dawlah Electronics, Boy's Supplying Store and officials of the Philippine embassy.

Eight-match ban

LONDON, Nov 25, (Reuters): Former Wales Rugby Union international Paul Moriarty received an eight-match suspension from the English Rugby League yesterday. The Welsh forward was sent off on Friday after a foul on Leeds forward Nigel Waddell, who suffered a fractured jaw.

Jansher bored with squash

Jahangir clinches title



Jahangir: scored an easy win

STUTTGART, West Germany, Nov 25, (Reuters): Top seed Jahangir Khan crushed world champion Jansher Khan in 54 minutes in the final of the Stuttgart Open squash tournament yesterday, leaving his defeated arch-rival declaring he was bored with the game.

Jahangir, six times world champion, defeated his Pakistani compatriot 15-9 15-13 15-4 in a match which fell way short of expectation.

Second seed Jansher seemed almost casual during a first game in which he was always behind. He failed to convert a 12-10 lead in the second game and admitted he put little effort into the third, lasted just seven minutes.

"I couldn't get interested in the third game," Jansher said afterwards. "If I had managed to win the second things might have been different. But I am very bored at the moment and will take a two-month rest after playing the Dutch Open next week."

Jahangir, 25, was unimpressed by the explanations of his com-

patriot, five years his junior. "I know it is very tough when you fall two games behind but that is the type of pressure you have to learn to take. And if he is bored after just three years on the circuit what will he be like in years to come?" Jahangir asked.

The victory put Jahangir 13-12 ahead in career matches with Jansher since they first met in 1986.

Jansher Khan was heading a strong field at the \$50,000 Dutch Squash Open which was to start in the Hague this evening.

But Jansher will not face Jahangir Khan, who is skipping the six-day tournament so he can take rest, even organiser Robert-Jan Anjema said yesterday. Anjema said 17 out of the top 20 men would be competing, including leading Australians Chris Dittmar, Rodney Martin and Chris Robertson.

Pakistan's Zarak Jahan Khan has withdrawn after injuring a knee in the Stuttgart Open last Monday. He will be replaced by compatriot Soheil Qaiser.



The Orioles line up before the start of their match.

Astros outplay Mets

THE Mets looked good in Friday morning's Kuwait Little League game but they ran into a tough Astros squad, who would not wilt under pressure.

Austin Kurowski had a home run in the first inning bringing in 2 runs. Sahaid Al Awadi had a nice double and Kareem Abu Zeid had a single. The Mets first baseman Yassin Aziz was involved in beautiful defensive plays. But the Astros were too strong.

Gibran Hamdan, Bibi Al Ebrahim, and Marwan Al Moosa all had home runs hits. Each earned 2 RBIs. The only other hitter was Tarek Abu Ghazaleh with a single. The Astros managed to out walk the Mets and take the game 13-7.

The Pirates and Dodgers gave their fans some heart stopping action. It was a pitchers' game. Dodgers pitcher Haider Basravi struck out 9 batters, walked 6 and allowed only 3 hits. Firas Al Ragon had a home run in the third inning with no one on base. The Pirates pitcher Waqar Husain struck out 8 batters, walked 4 and allowed only 2 hits. Firas Afani had 2 doubles and earned 2 RBIs. Fahad Shamlan also had a single. At the end of 3 full innings the Pirates had 4 and the Dodgers 3.

The Mariners came on strong against the Blue Jays; Hisham Abdel Hamid had a double bringing in 2 runs, Ziad Sakhlleh, Bashir, and Rami Khoury all had nice singles helping their team to victory.

The Blue Jays hitters were Ryan Williams with a single along with Bader Al Anzi. Bader was left on base at the end of the inning. The two scoring runs came from Abdullah, Al Hassan, and Ryan Williams who were able to steal home.

Those Tigers just rolled over the Royals! Ahmed Al Qallaf, Ahmed Al Wazyan, and Ahmed Galal were the home run hitters for the Tigers. Ahmed Al Qallaf earned 3 RBIs and Nawaf Al Ghanim and Ali Al Bunny each earned 3 RBIs along with Josh Dimmeler.

The Royals just couldn't get going. Oliver Kurabi, Nabeel Alexander, Faisal Al Zuhair, and



The Giants wait for their game.



An action shot of one of the matches.

E.J. Gomez, all had singles along with Yahya El Hussayni and were able to score. After three long innings the Tigers led 38 to the Royals 5.

The Giants continued their dominance as they defeated the Rangers 21-0. Josh Bauer had the only hit for the Rangers.

The Giants were hitting everything. Masato Watanabe and Shigeo Nanao had home run hits. Koichi Hozume had 2 doubles and earned 2 RBIs. Masaaki Nagashima earned 4 RBIs with his 3 singles and a double. The Giants look like the team everyone wants to beat.

Results	
T-Ball	9
17 Cubs	7
8 Athletics	7
38 Royals	5
13 Mets	7
2 Mariners	13
4 Dodgers	3
9 Cardinals	8
21 Rangers	0
16 White Sox	12
Home run hitters for November 24	
Austin Kurowski	Mets
Gibran Hamdan	Astros
Bibi Al Ebrahim	Astros
Marwan Al Moosa	Astros
Firas Al Ragon	Dodgers
Ahmed Al Qallaf	Tigers
Ahmed Al Wazyan	Tigers
Ahmed Galal	Giants
Masato Watanabe	Giants
Shigeo Nanao	Giants

Shuwaikh lead the way

By Sonny Mariano

THE PBK Winter League, currently going on at the Holiday Inn bowling lanes, continued to be dominated by the favourites with defending League champions Shuwaikh-Chiquita leading the way after their convincing win over Murgab-City Intl.

The Banana Magnates who duplicated their 4-0 victory last week were guided by skipper Rico Pino with his 3 game series of 580 pinfalls. The Money Dealers on the other hand were led by Rolly Galichia who scored 500 pinfalls in three games.

In the only other match played on Thursday, another strong contender for the title Salmiya-NTC won over Jabriya-Softrock Cafe by a similar 4-0 count. The Traders, a combination of Filipino and Thai bowlers, easily outbowed the Rockers with superb performances coming from Joe Chaurwit (551) and dependable Anukul Sae Tang. Top Rockers for Jabriya were Rod Dulay (503) and Ed Deleon with 493.

The High Game of the day was registered by Rico Pino with 225 and Lynne Reyes with 187. The High Series went to Anukul with his 3 game series of 608 and Nitz Alined who scored 462.

Going into Friday's bowling action, an early encounter between title contenders Salmiya and Shuwaikh provided a match to watch. In the first game the Shuwaikh Banana Magnates edged the Traders but NTC came right back in the second game and even posted a five mark advantage going into the third and deciding game.

The Traders who seemed to be hitting their strides led in the first three frames but the Banana Mag-



Shuwaikh squad (from left): standing Lando, Nafez, Mercy, Lynne, Rico, Boy, Arthur. (Sitting) Tony and Pete.

nates didn't give in to the pressure and slowly moved on top with inspired showing coming from Antonio Lason and Rico Pino. The final score was 3-1 for Shuwaikh-Chiquita who now leads the 42 teams vying for the championship trophy.

Another cliff hanger was the game between Shuwaikh-Al Rashed Freight and Mahbala-Jokers. The two teams split the first two games and ironically were tied in the third and final game to come out with an even in games won but the Freight-Movers edged the American Jokers in total pinfalls which gave them another point and the final score was 2.5-1.5 in favour of Al Rashed.

Jabriya-Softrock bounced back into contention by surprising the fancied Keifan - BMW Speedmasters

by score of 3 games to 1. Another team to watch is Yarmouk-Tecton who also came out victorious over the Murgab-City Intl. 3 games to 1.

Meanwhile Surra-Magnolia/Far Eastern won over Pama-NTC 3-0 and finally Kuwait City-Araliya Rest. squandered a two game advantage to settle for a 2-2 draw with Al Soor Najd Cargo Forwarders.

This tournament, which is jointly sponsored by L & M and Holiday Inn, will last till the first week of January and will be capped by the step ladder finals between the top three teams.

Schedule of games for Thursday, Nov 30, at 6.00 pm. C vs K, D vs L. Friday Dec 1, starting at 9.00 am A vs C, B vs D, 1.00 pm E vs G, F vs H, 5.00 pm I vs K, J vs L.

Lever helps Nuggets rout Supersonics

DENVER, Nov 25, (AP): Fat Lever scored 24 points, Michael Adams added 23 and Denver's opportunistic Defense broke the game open in the third quarter as the Nuggets won their fourth straight game. Denver forced 23 turnovers and converted them into 35 points.

It was the Nuggets' ninth straight victory at home over Seattle, which hasn't won in McNichols Arena since Nov 30, 1985. Lever, held to four points in the first half, scored nine in the third period and triggered an 18-4 run that turned a 72-59 lead into a 90-63 rout with 2-47 to play. Rookie Dana Barros led Seattle with 18 points.

Suns 121, Magic 94

Jeff Hornacek had the first triple-double of his four-year NBA career and Tom Chambers scored 14 of his 27 points in a lopsided third period. Hornacek, who had 22 points, 15 assists and 12 rebounds, scored 12 points to help Phoenix take a 58-37 half-time lead. Mark West's free throw with 1:13 left in the third quarter put the Suns ahead 98-52.

Results	
Indiana	118 Boston 111
Houston	85 Charlotte 81
Atlanta	103 Miami 87
Philadelphia	121 Washington 108
Dallas	101 Cleveland 82
Detroit	99 Minnesota 89
Denver	122 Seattle 109
Phoenix	121 Orlando 94
Portland	125 New Jersey 99
San Antonio	90 L.A. Clippers 89



Johnson (right) and Fetterman during the TV show. (Reuters wirephoto).

Johnson, De Merode appear on French TV

PARIS, Nov 25, (AP): Ben Johnson and the head of the International Olympic Committee medical commission were face-to-face yesterday for the first time since Johnson's suspension for using steroids at the 1988 Olympic.

The Canadian sprinter and Prince Alexandre De Merode of Belgium were participating on a French television show on performance-enhancing drugs in sports. Several top French athletes, coaches and heads of support federations took part, along with the French Secretary of State for Youth and Sports, Roger Bembuck.

Johnson won the 100 metre sprint in Seoul in 9.79 seconds in September 1988. But two days after the victory, he was stripped of the world record and the gold medal after traces of an anabolic steroid were found in his urine.

De Merode is the IOC medical head and was the podium when Johnson's positive test results were announced in Seoul.

Johnson, who reportedly received \$25,000 for his French TV appearance, participated in a brief question-and-answer session in which he reiterated his admission that he had used steroids.

He also told of his desire to run again, not only at the 1992 Olympics but also at the World Indoor Championships in 1991 at Tokyo.

"I would like to be given a second chance to run," Johnson said. "I am training very hard. I think in Barcelona I can run faster and at Tokyo, I can beat everybody there."

De Merode spoke after Johnson. "Johnson's cheating was a deep disappointment for me, but this exceptional example helps us in our struggle against doping," De Merode said. "I hope that he returns to the best level in order to show our work succeeded."

Johnson was accompanied to Paris by his lawyer, Ed Fetterman, who thought it was a good thing for Johnson to make an appearance in France and show his stand against drugs now.

"We hope that by Ben coming here... (he) will set the tone for others to do the same thing around the world," Fetterman said. "France asked us to do this. They don't have any athletes who are prepared to come forth and say 'I've done it.' So maybe by Ben showing his courage, others will."

Discover gold

Government Warning: Smoking is a major cause of cancer and diseases of the lungs, heart and arteries.



## Belgrade chess

**BELGRADE, Nov 25, (Reuters):** British grandmaster Nigel Short and world champion Garry Kasparov battled through 60 moves and six hours of play in the ninth round of the Belgrade international chess tournament yesterday. But although Kasparov had a slight advantage when they adjourned, analysts said the game was likely to end in a draw. Kasparov is still leading with six points and will probably have seven points after completing his two adjourned games.

## Bordeaux win

**PARIS, Nov 25, (Reuters):** Bordeaux recovered from a goal down at half-time to consolidate their lead in the French Soccer First Division with an emphatic 3-1 win over Racing Paris yesterday.

## Italian League

**ROME, Nov 25, (Reuters):** Italy's soccer-loving Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti suggested yesterday foreigners like Diego Maradona who play in the Italian League should be banned from appearing in international matches against Italy.

## Record holder

**PARIS, Nov 25, (Reuters):** Moroccan world record holder Said Aouita said yesterday he did not plan to resume serious competition until next June. Aouita, who turned 30 earlier this month, told a news conference he would not compete at all during the winter.

## Berger warned

**ITAPARICA, Brazil, Nov 25, (Reuters):** American Jay Berger was warned about his behaviour as he beat defending champion Jaime Yanga of Peru 6-4 7-5 to reach the final of the Itaparica Open men's tennis tournament yesterday. The second seed lost his temper in the second set as he contested a line call on a point which left him 4-2 down.

## Czech teams

**PRAGUE, Nov 25, (UPI):** Czechoslovak soccer teams Slavia Prague and RH Chel refused to play a scheduled First Division match today because of the "political situation" and urged other clubs to do the same.

## Maradona treated

**NAPLES, Nov 25, (Reuters):** Italian club Napoli's captain Diego Maradona underwent intensive treatment today for a recurring back problem on the eve of a key away League game against Juventus.

## Rugby match

**LONDON, Nov 25, (Reuters):** The New Zealand All Blacks beat the Barbarians 21-10 (half-time 6-10) in a rugby union match at Twickenham today.

## W. German soccer

**BONN, Nov 25, (Reuters):** West German First Division soccer results today: Werder Bremen 2 St. Paul 1; Nuremberg 4 Bayern Munich 0; Borussia Moen 3 Kaiserslautern 1; Karlsruhe 1 VfB Stuttgart 0; Cologne 2 Bochum 0; Hamburg SV 1 Fortuna D 0; Herford 1 Bayer U 2; Wolfsburg 1 Eintracht 1. Played on Thursday Borussia Dortmund 1 Bayer L 1.

## Volleyball tourney

**TOKYO, Nov 25, (Reuters):** Unbeaten Cuba extended their winning streak to six when they breezed past South Korea 15-10 15-11 15-9 in the eighth round of the World Cup volleyball tournament today. European champions Italy were taken to five sets before defeating Brazil 15-8 15-12 11-15 10-15 17-16.

## French champions

**BELGRADE, Nov 25, (Reuters):** French champions Marseille have signed midfielder Dragan Stokjovic from red star Belgrade on a \$3 million preliminary contract, the Yugoslav soccer club said today.

Pakistan gain upper hand  
Aamer hits India for ton

**FAISALABAD, Pakistan, Nov 25, (Reuters):** Opener Aamer Malik hit his first Test century to give Pakistan the upper hand on the third day of the second cricket Test against India today. Aamer, playing in his seventh Test, scored 117 as Pakistan increased their overnight 82 for no wicket to 358 for six at the close in reply to India's first innings of 288.

A vigorous 58 by opener Rameez Raja and a solid 63 from the in-form Salim Malik helped Pakistan to move 50 runs ahead with four wickets and two days left after tomorrow's rest day.

India's former captain Kapil Dev took a share of the day's individual honours by becoming Test cricket's third highest wicket-taker. His two for 76 brought his tally to 356 wickets, passing Dennis Lillee's 355 and putting him behind Richard Hadlee (396) and Ian Botham (376).

Aamer and Rameez gave their side an early boost by taking their partnership to 105 — Pakistan's first century opening stand in 37 Tests. It was broken when paceman Manoj Prabhakar beat Rameez caught by Krishnamachari Srikkanth at mid-off after an innings containing 10 fours.

Shoaib Mohammad (24) helped Aamer add 52 for the second wicket, while Salim Malik continued his recent run of prolific form by putting on 96 with Aamer for the fourth wicket.



Aamer scores his first Test century

Salim Malik made his runs from 81 deliveries and hit seven fours before falling leg before to a delivery from Prabhakar that kept low.

Aamer, on 26 overnight, batted steadily to beat his previous Test best of 98 not out against England at Karachi two years ago. He finally fell to a return catch by Prabhakar, having batted 409 minutes, faced 300 balls and struck 17 fours.

Prabhakar was the most successful of the six bowlers used, taking four for 88 from 28 overs. The first Test in the four-match series was drawn.

## Scoreboard

**INDIA first innings** 288 (S. Manjrekar 76, S. Tendulkar 59, Imran Khan four for 45). Pakistan first innings (overnight 82 for no wicket).

Aamer Malik c and b Prabhakar 117; Rameez Raja c Srikkanth b Prabhakar 63; Shoaib Mohammad lbw b Kapil Dev 24; Javed Miandad lbw b Prabhakar 13; Salim Malik lbw b Prabhakar 63; Imran Khan not out 18; Naved Anjum c More b Kapil Dev 12; Nadeem Abbas not out 5; Extras (b-2 lb-7 nb-14 w-7) 30. Total (for six wickets) 358. Fall of wickets: 1-105 2-157 3-193 4-288 5-307 6-351.

To bat: Wasim Akram, Abdul Qadir, Salim Jaffer. Bowling: Kapil Dev 30-9-76-2, Manoj Prabhakar 28-4-88-4, Vivek Razdan 12-1-53-0, Maninder Singh 21-4-70-0, Ravi Shastri 9-0-29-0, Krishnamachari Srikkanth 2-0-13-0.

## Sri Lankans fight back

**SALE, Australia, Nov 25, (Reuters):** Asanka Gurusinghe and Aravinda de Silva hit half centuries to lead a spirited fight-back by Sri Lanka after they had lost both openers in the second over of their first innings against Victoria today.

By the close of the second day of the four-day cricket match the touring team had recovered to 156 for four in reply to the state side's first innings score of 507 for six declared.

Damien Fleming, who finished with three for 29, gave openers Dhammika Ranatunga and Roshan Mahanama no time to settle, having Ranatunga caught behind with his second ball and Mahanama picked up at slip five balls later.

The ball which dismissed Ranatunga appeared to strike his pad rather than his bat and the opener was clearly unimpressed with the umpire's decision.

Mahanama fended off a delivery which leapt at his throat and succeeded only in popping up a catch to Jamie Siddons at second slip.

But Victoria's hopes of further successes with the new ball were foiled by Gurusinghe and De Silva, who scored freely in a third-wicket stand of 96. Gurusinghe made 55 and De Silva 54.

**Scoreboard**  
**VICTORIA first innings** (overnight 315 for five): G. Waite b Ravi Ratnayake 4; R. Ratnayake 0; I. Ratnayake 0; W. Phillips c A. Ranatunga b Jayasuriya 134; J. Siddons c Wickremasinghe b Rameez Ratnayake 113; G. Ratnayake 0; R. Ratnayake 0; S.O. Donnell c Wickremasinghe b A. Ranatunga 121; D. Fleming not out 6; M. Dimattina not out 32; Extras (lb-8 nb-24) 32. Total (for six declared) 507.

Fall of wickets: 1-42 2-73 3-210 4-233 5-305 6-443.

Did not bat: P. McIntyre, P. Jackson, P. Reifel.

Bowling: Ravi Ratnayake 22-7-5-2, Rameez Ratnayake 20-1-109-0 (5nb), Wijegunawardene 20-1-109-0 (5nb), Asoka de Silva 22-3-70-0 (4nb), Aravinda de Silva 17-1-80-0 (1nb), Jayasuriya 7-2-17-1, A. Ratnayake 12-0-36-1 (1nb).

**SRI LANKA first innings**  
R. Mahanama c Siddons b Fleming 0; D. Ranatunga c Dimattina b Fleming 0; A. Gurusinghe c Fraser b Fleming 55; Aravinda de Silva c Fleming b O'Donnell 54; A. Ratnayake not out 39; S. Jayasuriya not out 0; Extras (lb-3 nb-5) 8. Total (four wickets) 156. Fall of wickets: 1-0-2-53 10-4-150. To bat: G. Wickremasinghe, R. Ratnayake, Rameez Ratnayake, Asoka de Silva, K. Wijegunawardene. Bowling (to date): Reifel 13-4-31-0 (1nb), Fleming 9-0-29-3 (1nb), McIntyre 8-1-40-0, Jackson 11-2-40-0, O'Donnell 6-2-13-1 (3nb).

## Faiz starts defence of title

**FAIZ Mohyuddin starts the defence of his Kuwait Open Badminton Championship title this evening against A. Abraham at the KOC Sports Centre in Alhadi. Faiz, who has remained unbeaten in all tournaments in Kuwait since 1983, is the top seed and is expected to score an easy victory. He has won the triple crown in this event a number of times but will only be trying for two titles this year. The other event he is taking part in is the mixed doubles.**

**Today's programme**  
7.00pm John Varghese vs Siva Kumar; Saji Varghese vs Sebastian or L. Gonsalves; Habib Hussein vs Mathew N.C. or Sunil Kumar; R. Sagneesh vs M.K. Thomas vs M. Habibuddin or

or R. Varghese vs A. Cherian or Sultan Mahmoud.

7.30pm P. Varghese & P. Cherian vs B. Philip & Jojo or J. Hussain & M. Sadiq; Faiz Mohyuddin vs A. Abraham; M. Archaryan vs C. Haseman or Suresh R.; R.D. Silva vs winner of Ithikhar vs Jojo.

8.00pm G. Joseph vs S. Singh; Mused Al Zeer or Kafil Ahmed vs P. Varghese or Pushparaj; J. Hussain vs E. Salib or W. Pradeep; Stephen P.K. or W. Sivas vs S. Thomas or P.K. Sadeesh.

8.30pm J. Mathew vs C. George; Varghese Joseph & K. Thomas vs winner or J. Taylor & R. Dickson or W. Pradeep & S. Sartha; R.D. Silva & S. Varghese vs C. Haseman & M. Al Zeer or M. Iqbal & A. Abraham or Ithikhar & Kafil; J. Varghese & J. Mathew vs R. Siqueira & P.I. Chacko.

9.00pm M.K. Thomas vs M. Habibuddin or

A.M. Ghazi; M.G. Chako vs Reji Joseph; J. Joseph & M. Thomas or L. Gonsalves & G. Joseph vs S. Kumar & S.S. Sharma or P.K. Sateesh & John Kurian; Mathew N.C. & Siva Kumar vs M.G. Chako & G. Varghese or P. Alex M. Das.

9.30pm P. Cherian & M. Iqbal or G. Tharian; G. Tharian & S. Singh or M. Sabir & S. Khan vs Sebastian V. & Stephan P.K. or Reji Joseph & C. George; J. Thomas & A. Cherian or S. Thomas & R. Varghese vs W. Soares & Pushparaj or Sultan M. & F. Khan; S. Das & H. Partridge vs H. Hussain & L. Green.

10.00pm M. Zubair or P.I. Chacko & M.D. Abdulrahman or G. Varghese; J. Varghese & J. Mathew or R. Siqueira & P.I. Chacko or H. Hussein & M. Acharyan or M.D. Abdulrahman & M. Zubair; C. Haseman & K. Taylor vs E. Salib & M. Trumpi & P.K. & D. Sateesh & C. George & G. Anthony.

## Stage set for Masters tournament

**NEW YORK, Nov 25, (Reuters):** The Masters tennis tournament, the star-studded championship that traditionally marks the end of the men's season, begins its farewell New York showing on Tuesday at Madison Square Garden.

The \$3 million Masters, which has called New York its home for the last 12 years, will move next year to Frankfurt, West Germany, for a five-year run as part of the New Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) tour.

Helping to make this last tournament of the decade extra special will be New Yorker John McEnroe, playing before home fans in his first masters since January 1986.

The 30-year-old McEnroe, who has climbed to number four in the world, is in the Red Laver group of the round-robin event along with world number one Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia and fellow Americans Michael Chang and Aaron Krickstein.

Defending champion Boris Becker of West Germany, winner of this year's Wimbledon and US Open titles, heads the Blue Nastase group that also includes Stefan Edberg of Sweden and Americans Andre Agassi and Brad Gilbert.

Each player will play the three others in his group, with the top two from each group advancing to the semifinals to be held on Saturday. The final is on Sunday.

Last year's final was perhaps the most memorable in the 19-year history of the elite championship as Becker beat Lendl in five gruelling sets, with the last point of the match being decided when the ball plopped over the net tape to end a tie-break.

The victory served notice that the West German could defeat the world's best on a surface other than the friendly, fast grass at Wimbledon and the result presaged a breakthrough year for Becker, who added the US Open crown — beating Lendl in the final — to his three Wimbledon titles.

Tuesday's programme begins with world number three Edberg playing number six Agassi. Australian Open champion Lendl follows on to the medium-fast supreme court carpet against French Open champion Chang.



Boon scores his first double ton

## Boon slams 200 as Aussies pile up runs

**PERTH, Australia, Nov 25, (Reuters):** Opener David Boon completed his first Test double century and Dean Jones made 99 as Australia continued their run spree against New Zealand in the one-off cricket Test in Perth today.

The Australians passed the 400-run mark in their first innings for the ninth consecutive Test on their way to 521 for nine declared. New Zealand were 25 for no wicket at the close of the second day.

Boon, unbeaten on 169 out of Australia's 296 for two at the end of the first day, passed the highest individual Test score recorded in Perth — 176 by current Australian coach Bob Simpson against India in the 1977-78 series — and his own previous best Test score of 184 before New Zealand captain John Wright took a diving slip catch to dismiss him.

The stocky Tasmanian's 200 took 451 minutes and included 28 fours. New Zealand took the new ball at the start of the second day and were rewarded with the wicket of Australian skipper Allan Border after he had added only five to his overnight score of 45.

Border, dropped by Robert Vance at third slip off Willie Watson for 48, was surprised by the pace of a Danny Morrison delivery which bowled him.

After Boon's dismissal, Jones continued the agony for the hard-working bowlers with an innings which combined watchful defence with explosive strokeplay.

Wicketkeeper Ian Healy gave him valuable support by scoring 28 in a sixth-wicket stand of 54 before becoming off-spinner Dipak Patel's first Test victim.

Steve Waugh, such a thorn in England's side in this year's Ashes series, never found his touch in an innings of 17. Jones, struck painful blows to the knee by deliveries from Morrison and Martin Snedden, was poised to complete his seventh Test hundred when he was trapped leg before by Morrison.

The New Zealanders again struggled without a top-class strike bowler, although Morrison displayed occasional fire. He finished with four for 145 from 39.1 overs and Snedden was rewarded for his nagging accuracy with four for 108 from 42 overs.

## Scoreboard

**AUSTRALIA first innings** (overnight 296 for two): M. Taylor c Wright b Morrison... 9; D. Boon c Wright b Snedden... 200; T. Moody c Smith b Snedden... 61; A. Border b Morrison... 50; D. Jones lbw b Morrison... 99; S. Waugh c Greatbatch b Snedden... 17; I. Healy c J. C. G. b Patel... 28; M. Hughes c Wright b Snedden... 16; G. Lawson b Morrison... 1; C. Rackemann not out... 15; Extras (b-1 lb-9 w-2 nb-13) 25. Total (for nine declared) 521. Fall of wickets: 1-28 2-177 3-316 4-361 5-395 6-449 7-489 8-490 9-521.

## Did not bat

T. Alderman. Bowling: Morrison 39.1-8-145-4 (3nb), Cairns 12-2-60-0, Snedden 42-10-108-4 (5nb), Watson 37-7-118-0 (5nb), Patel 28-5-80-1.

## NEW ZEALAND first innings

J. Wright not out... 12; R. Vance not out... 4; Extras (lb-4 w-4 nb-1) 9. Total (no wicket) 25. To bat: M. Greatbatch, M. Crowe, J. Crowe, D. Patel, I. Smith, C. Cairns, M. Snedden, W. Watson, D. Morrison. Bowling (to date): Alderman 5-1-0 (1nb), Lawson 2-1-5-0 (4w), Rackemann 3-0-7-0.

## Seles stuns Sabatini

**ESSEN, West Germany, Nov 25, (Reuters):** Yugoslav 15-year-old Monica Seles upset world number three Gabriela Sabatini 6-2 6-2 in just 63 minutes in a Group B match in the \$500,000 West German Masters women's tennis tournament yesterday.

"I had not counted on winning so fast," said Seles, who broke service early in both sets to sweep past the Argentine.

Both women had already secured berths in today's semifinals and Sabatini said: "The main reason why I lost was that I took things lightly. I was not concentrating and did not get into the match."

In another Group B match, Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia beat West German Eva-Maria Sauerhoff 6-0 6-4 while in Group A, Bulgaria's Manuela Maleeva defeated American Mary Jo Fernandez 6-4 6-4 to line up a semifinal clash against Sabatini.

The second semifinal pits Seles against Arantxa Sanchez of Spain.

## Victory triumphs in style

**IT was Victory all the way in Friday's Jordan Offshore Powerboat Race.** Hamad Buhaila and Randy Cenn of the Victory team cruised home to an unchallenged first place, in their inboard boat which is powered by two 650hp engines. Second place overall was taken by fellow Victory team-mates Khalifa Hareb and Salim Khalifa, who clinched a group win in the standard class.

Second place in Group A (modified engines) was clinched by Merit's Hosam Sayafe, after an epic drive through Saudi Arabia which saw him leaving Kuwait twice and arriving in Aqaba late — the night before the race. Sayafe had already proved his tenacity as a driver in the last Dubai race, but this time his efforts paid off, and his boat came straight off the trailer and into second place.

It was a foregone conclusion that the Victory boat would triumph. It outpaced everyone, and before the race competitors had joked that they were only competing for second place, and that Hamad and Randy might as well take their prize and go home.

Only the ever-present danger of mechanical failure threatened the result, as it simply has substantially more power than any other boat. For that reason it is all the more commendable that the Merit boat made it into second place.

Sayafe was piloting his usual Merit Gulfcraft 27 powered by Johnson V8 engines. "At the start we didn't push for fear of breaking, and of course we knew that many boats in front of us would not complete the course. We had started moving up through the boats when we encountered a fuel pump problem which slowed us. I can't say whether it would have affected our placing, but afterwards we found little difficulty in working our way back to the front," said the Merit driver.

A total of fifteen drivers started the 73 nautical mile race, which was organised by Dubai's Saeed Hareb, who is fast becoming an important force in international powerboat racing. Six boats were entered from the impressive Victory team. "It is fantastic to have got such a good result against such formidable opponents," said a jubilant Sayafe, as he made preparations to ship the Merit Gulfcraft back to Kuwait.

**Results**  
Group A  
1. Hamad Buhaila/Randy Cenn  
2. Hosam Al Sayafe/Ghanem Al Othman  
3. Ahmed Al Ansari/Khaled Al Ansari

Group B  
1. Khalifa Hareb/Salim Khalifa  
2. Khaled Bakhit/Homid Bakhit

## Steinlager first in Fremantle

**FREMANTLE, Australia, Nov 25, (Reuters):** New Zealand's Steinlager 2 repeated its success in the first leg of the Whitbread round-the-world yacht race by being first across the line in Fremantle at the end of a closely-fought second leg today.

The red maxi finished one hour 34 minutes ahead of the British sloop Rothmans which made the most of a last-minute error by Merit to finish just 26 seconds ahead of the Swiss sloop. New Zealand Ketch Fisher and Paykel was fourth.

Steinlager's captain Peter Blake, the only man to have sailed in all five round-the-globe races, said he was thankful the 7,650 nautical mile trip from Punta del Este in Uruguay was over.

"Although we didn't go as far south as we did last time, it was much colder and there were much stronger winds," Blake told journalists after arriving shortly before dawn.

The battle for second place between Rothmans and Merit, went on right up to the finishing line.

The yachts had to round a navigation mark just eleven miles from the finishing line, and at this stage Pierre Fehlmann's Merit was about 200 metres ahead of Rothmans.

However Lawrie Smith and his crew did not give up and engaged Fehlmann's men in a tactical duel, constantly trying to interfere with the Swiss yacht's wind.

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## Villa beat Wimbledon to share top spot

**LONDON, Nov 25, (Reuters):** Goals in each half from striking partners David Platt and Tony Daley swept Aston Villa to a 2-0 victory at Wimbledon today and into a three-way tie at the top of the English First Division.

Regenerated Villa, who narrowly avoided relegation last season, outplayed their London hosts and went ahead in the 23rd minute when England striker Platt flicked home Daley's pinpoint cross.

Daley added the second seven minutes from time to leave Villa level on 27 points with leaders Arsenal, who play Liverpool tomorrow, and second-placed Chelsea, who drew 0-0 at Manchester United. The trio are three points clear of fourth-placed Liverpool.

It was Villa's seventh win in eight games and one they richly deserved with former England player Gordon Cowans supplying plenty of inspiration and endeavour in midfield.

But Everton's jinx at Nottingham Forest's city ground continued when they lost 1-0 for the second time in four days, this time to a Nigel Clough penalty midway through the second half. Everton have only won twice in



Nigel Clough: scored for Forest

27 visits to Forest.

Southampton found their best scoring form as they dismantled Luton 6-3 but Tottenham's mis-

erable home run continued with a 2-1 defeat at White Hart Lane against Derby County.

Rodney Wallace and Paul

## Rideout each scored twice as Southampton...

Southampton, which began the season as a possible relegation candidate and hadn't won for a month, played four forwards and crushed Luton to move into fifth place.

Arsenal has the chance to take the outright lead tomorrow when it visits Anfield in a televised game.

## Results

**English Division One**  
Charlton 1 Manchester C 1  
Coventry 1 Norwich 0  
Manchester U. 0 Chelsea 0  
Notts Forest 1 Everton 0  
Q.P.R. 0 Millwall 0  
Sheff Wed. 2 Crystal P 2  
Southampton 6 Luton 2  
Tottenham 1 Derby 2  
Wimbledon 0 Aston Villa 2  
Playing Sunday: Liverpool v Arsenal

**English Division Two**  
Blackburn 5 West Ham 4  
Bradford 1 Bournemouth 0  
Brighton 1 Sunderland 2  
Hull 1 Barnsley 1  
Ipswich 1 Oldham 1  
Middlebrough 1 Oxford 0  
Newcastle 2 Sheffield U. 0  
Plymouth 1 Port Vale 2  
Sheff 0 Leicester 0  
Watford 3 Wolves 1  
West Brom 2 Leeds 1  
Playing Sunday: Swindon v Portsmouth

**English Division Three**  
Birmingham 1 Bolton 0  
Blackpool 0 Tranmere 0  
Bristol R. 2 Swans 3  
Bury 0 Crewe 3

**English Division Four**  
Cardiff 3 Preston 0  
Fulham 1 Wigan 0  
Huddersfield 1 Notts County 1  
Leyton O. 3 Mansfield 0  
Northampton 0 Brentford 1  
Reading 1 Bristol City 1  
Rotherham 4 Shrewsbury 2

**Played Friday:**  
Chester 1 Walsall 1  
Chesterfield 3 Huddersfield 1  
Exeter 1 Wrexham 1  
Grimsby 2 Aldershot 1  
Hullix 1 Maidstone 2  
Hereford 0 Doncaster 0  
Lincoln 0 Barnsley 0  
Peterborough 1 Torquay 0  
Rochdale 1 Carlisle 2  
Stockport 4 Southport 2

**Played Friday:**  
Gillingham 3 Colchester 3  
Scarborough 1 York 3  
Southend 0 Cambridge 0

**Scottish Premier Division**  
Aberdeen 2 Hearts 1  
Dundee U. 3 Dundee 2  
Hibernian 3 Celtic 0  
Motherwell 0 Dumbarton 0  
Rangers 3 Dumbarton 0

**Scottish Division One**  
Airdrie 1 Partick 1  
Ayr 3 Alloa 0  
Clyde 1 Albion 1  
(Abandoned after 65 minutes — fog)

**Scottish Division Two**  
Falkirk 3 St Johnstone 1  
Meadowbank 1 Clydebank 3  
Morton 0 Hamilton 0  
Raith 1 Forfar 0

**Scottish Division Three**  
Arbroath 2 Stirling 2  
Brechin 3 Kilmarnock 2  
Cowdenbeath 0 Queen's Park